Kidnapped Korean freed, but doubts raised on rescue

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- **New Marine deck officers** *(Complete list on* www.inq7.net)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2001 ★★★ 38 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 214 P15

It's official: Haydee to take over PCGG

By Juliet L. Javellana

AFTER a long courtship, Haydee Yorac has finally said yes.

Malacañang announced yesterday the formal appointment of Yorac as chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), effective July 17, amid a spate of calls for the

IT'S/ A11

Power-sharing in Senate urged

Cayetano, Drilon hold marathon sessions

By Armand N. Nocum, Juliet Javellana and Dona Pazzibugan

SENATORS Franklin Drilon and Renato Cayetano, the top administration contenders for the Senate presidency, are holding marathon "one-on-one" sessions to hammer out an agreement within the week, according to Sen. Juan Flavier, the most senior member of the Lakas-NUCD.

Drilon yesterday confirmed to the INQUIRER his meetings with Cayetano as part of a "continuing dialogue . . . to resolve the Senate presidency issue," he said, adding that no agreement has been reached so far.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. said he would rather that Drilon and Cayetano enter into a "term-sharing" or "power-sharing" agreement.

The scheme is to prevent a breakup of the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC), said Guingona who's president of Lakas, which is part of the coalition.

Guingona, however, stressed that Drilon and Cayetano should themselves agree to the arrangement.

"They have to talk it out. I think they're doing that. What's important here is we are in a crisis so

POWER-SHARING/ A12

STUCK with the problems of state, President Macapagal appears deep in thought during the 103rd Foundation Day of the toreign affairs department DENNIS SABANGAN

Estrada accepts authority of Sandiganbayan

By Alcuin Papa, Michael Lim Ubac and Donna Cueto

"I PLEAD for sobriety and impartiality, that I be given a fair trial, according to the rule of law, freed from intimidation, malice and undue pressure in the courts."

In a statement issued a day after he refused to plead either guilty or not guilty to charges of plunder, deposed President Joseph Estrada "fully" recognized the authority of the Sandiganbayan and expressed hope that the anti-graft court would respect his rights.

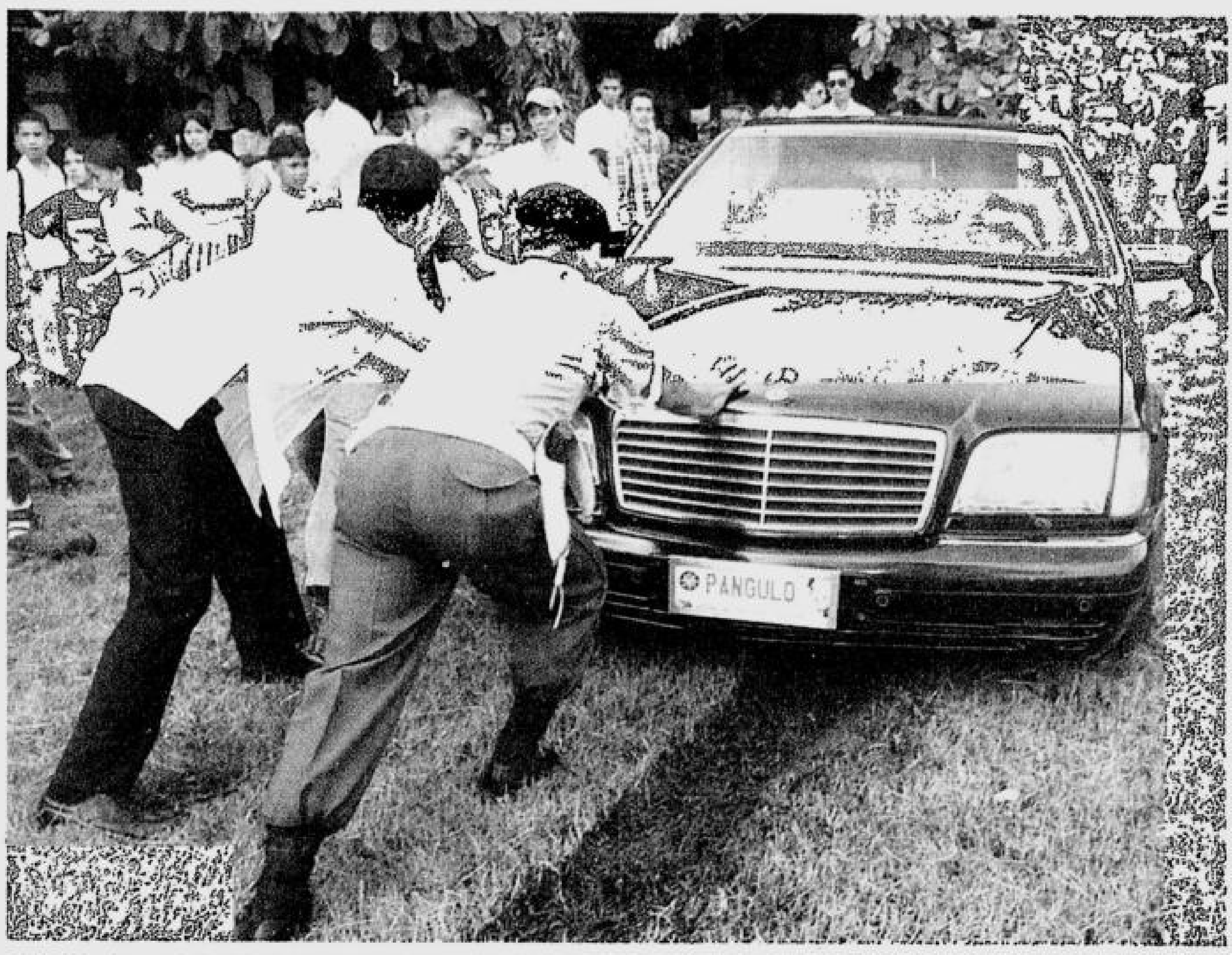
His aides said he was to have delivered the speech during his court appearance but was not given time to do so.

"I fully recognize the jurisdiction of this honorable court," Estrada said, but reiterated that he was not entering a plea "on the advice of my lawyers."

The court entered the plea of "not guilty" for him at his Tuesday arraignment on four counts of plunder.

Lawyers had said that Estrada's refusal to enter a plea showed that he did not recognize the authority of the tribunal. Experts interviewed by the INQUIRER had also said that the defense team could have been laying the groundwork for later questioning whether the ex-President had been denied

ESTRADA/A12



DENNIS SABANGAN

STUCK in the mud, the black bullet-proof Benz of President Macapagal would not budge even with the combined push by able bodies at the Esteban Abada Elementary School in Project 7 where she launched a "model of excellence" program.

WAGE HIKE

Workers set to walk out

By Christian V. Esguerra, Norman Bordadora and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

MASSIVE protests will greet President Macapagal-Arroyo when she delivers her State of the Nation Address at the opening of the 12th Congress on July 23 as militant groups press her to support an across-the-board wage increase of P125 for workers in the private sector.

Crispin Beltran, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), yesterday said that some 50,000 workers nationwide would walk out of their jobs as part of the protest.

"It seems that the President is not interested in any wage increase," said Beltran, who is expected to join the House of Representatives as one of the

BIG/ A12

Major gun battle erupts in Basilan; Sobero alive?

By Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Carlito Pablo

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—After a two-week lull, government forces and the Abu Sayyaf clashed yesterday in two separate encounters in the towns of Lantawan and Lamitan.

Maj. Alberto Gepilano, civil-military operations officer of the Joint Task Force Comet, said the first clash erupted at 6:45 a.m. in an area between Barangays Matikang and Bulanza in Lantawan. The fighting was continuing as of yesterday afternoon.

"This is a major gun battle," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. told reporters in Manila past noon. "It's not yet over."

Mabanta said the troops engaged in the clash with a 30-man Abu Sayyaf band were members of the Bravo Company of the 10th Infantry Battalion led by officers identified only as Lieutenants De Vera and Abdullah.

Gepilano said that MG-520 attack helicopters were conducting a continuous air assault and that civilians had been moved to safe grounds.

At press time the military had not received reports of casualties, but two soldiers were said to be wounded.

The Lantawan-based bandits are led by Commanders Isnilon Hapilon and Hamsiraji Sali alias Jose, who are reportedly holding Dos Palmas hostages Fe Rosadeno and Angie Montealegre and Lamitan nurses Ediborah Yap and Reina Malonzo.

The other encounter occurred at the boundary of Lamitan and Tipo-Tipo towns at 10:30 a.m.

The troops clashed with around 50 armed men belonging to a group led by Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, a military source said.

Sabaya was said to have separated from Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani who was reportedly holding American missionary

MAJOR/ A12

Pinoy family found dead in Sydney

A FILIPINO couple who migrated to Australia in the 1990s and their teenage daughter were stabbed to death in their Sydney home Tuesday.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that the bodies of lawyer Ted Gonzales, 46; his wife, Lowiva, 43; and their daughter, Clodine, were discovered by the couple's son, Sef, upon his return home late Tuesday from a night out.

Sef, a 20-year-old law student, alerted the police when he saw the bodies.

The newspaper The Australian quoted police sources as saying that the family's living room was covered with blood. The Sydney Morning Herald said the police reported that the house was turned upside down during the attack.

Police, the paper reported, believe that it was a case of home invasion. They are searching for more clues.

The Gonzaleses live in a two-story brick house on Collins Street, North Ryde. The area, which is a few miles northwest from the city of Sydney, is one of the biggest industrial and administration estates in Sydney.

Clodine had reportedly just returned home from school for the holidays.

Neighbors said the family mi-

PINOY/ A11

STICE. FOR
AR BENTAIN

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

DRUM roll for the launch of the Justice for Edgar Bentain Movement; Bentain's son, Noel, puzzles over the reenactment. *(Story on Page A2.)*

Cancel Jimenez bail, US asks government

By Cathy Yamsuan

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday asked the Supreme Court to cancel the P1-million bail bond posted by fugitive Mark Jimenez and nullify an order issued by a Manila judge for his temporary liberty.

In a petition filed on behalf of the US government, the DOJ said the order of Judge Guillermo Purganan of the Manila Regional Trial Court's Branch 42 was issued without factual or legal basis.

The DOJ said the Supreme Court should first resolve whether a potential extraditee could post bail and whether he should be notified and given a court hearing before an arrest warrant could be issued against him.

"(W)hat is involved here is the ability of the Philippines to comply in the future with its legal obligations under existing extradition treaties," it said.

A ruling allowing an extraditee to post bail gives that person the opportunity to flee and avoid extradition, according to the DOJ.

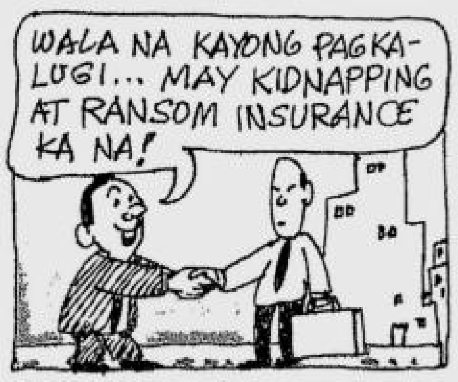
Jimenez is wanted by the state of Florida for conspiracy to defraud the US government, tax evasion, wire fraud and illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party.

The state issued an arrest warrant against Jimenez on April 1999.

To evade arrest, Jimenez sought refuge in the Philippines, allegedly taking advantage of his close friendship with then President Joseph Estrada.

On Jan. 18, 2000, the Supreme Court required then Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas to furnish Jimenez with copies of the US government's extradition request and its supporting papers and to grant him

CANCEL/A11



WALA NA KAYONG PAGKA-LUGI... MAY KIDNAPPING AT RANSOM INSURANCE KA NA!

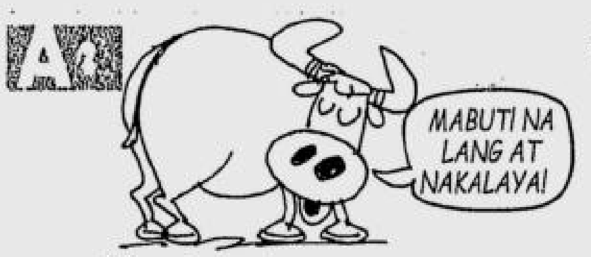
Ransom insurance now available

By Froilan Gallardo
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A white streamer draped outside a corporate office on Velez Street announces how an insurance firm is cashing in on the Filipino people's continuing horror.

The streamer reads: "Kidnapping, ex-

RANSOM/ A11


MABUTI NA LANG AT NAKALAYA!

Second FRONT PAGE

Kidnapped Korean freed, but doubts raised on rescue

By Dave Veridiano and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALLER ID, that gadget that allows one to see the number of the person calling, has been credited with solving the abduction of a Korean woman in Calamba, Laguna, Tuesday.

The rescue of the woman, however, became shrouded in mystery after two versions of it emerged.

In the official police version, Jung Ok Oh, wife of the manager of the Seoul Country Resort in Bagong Kalsada, Calamba, was rescued by elements of various police groups, while the Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau reported that she was found by barangay officials in Sariaya, Quezon.

Jung was kidnapped Sunday by armed men who emerged from the forest behind the resort and forced her into a green Daewoo Espero that sped off toward Los Baños, also in Laguna.

The victim's husband, Woo Gin Kim, told investigators the suspects, armed with short firearms, held him at bay while they seized his wife.

Woo said he received a call from the kidnappers an hour later demanding P1 million for the release of his wife.

Woo said he told them he could only afford P500,000. Irate, the kidnappers raised the ransom to P2 million, he said.

Woo then reported the incident to police who provided a Caller ID unit to trace the kidnappers' calls.

When another call came, police traced it to a public phone booth in Barangay Imok, Calauan, Laguna, where the kidnappers said the payoff, haggled down to P250,000 by Woo, was to take place.

Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Southern Luzon Police Office (PRO-4) and the PNP Intelligence Group staked out the phone booth and tailed the suspects who showed up to pick up the ransom.

The suspects were arrested outside the house where they were holding Jung in Sariaya, Quezon. Two other suspects who were in the house managed to escape, however.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, presented the suspects to the media yesterday. They were identified as Ali Samal of Bicutan, Taguig; Eduardo Magbanua of Barotac, Iloilo, and Jayson Timbal and Ricardo Lacson, both of Bagong Kalsada.

The suspects who escaped were identified only as "Dorder" and "Danny."

A manhunt has been launched for the two.

The Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau, however, quoted Chief Insp. Romeo Caranza, Sariaya police chief, as saying that at about 7 p.m. Tuesday, Victorino Manalo, chair of Barangay Castañas, radioed the police station and reported that they had a Korean national in their custody.

Manalo said the foreigner looked like the one reported to have just been kidnapped.

Caranza said he immediately sent a police team to the area to pick up the woman.

SPO3 Sofronio Manalo told the Inquirer the woman was visibly terrified when found by the villagers.

"The villagers told us that when they found her, she looked like she was escaping from someone," Manalo said.

Jung was then reportedly taken back to Laguna.

In an earlier interview, Supt. Alberto Mercado, acting Quezon police director, told the Inquirer authorities were monitoring the movements of former New People's Army members in the province who had recently formed a kidnap-for-ransom gang.

The group, he said, operates not only in the province but in the Southern Tagalog region.

Mercado said a police informer told them about the formation of the gang.

Based on the report, the gang has been divided into two groups, with one would operating in the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela area and the other one in Southern Tagalog.

He described the group as fully armed and with modern communications equipment.

Employees get OT even with House closed

DURING the recent period Congress was not in session, several employees of the House Media Affairs and Public Information Service (Mapis) reportedly drew overtime pay of between P20,000 and P30,000 each.

This was revealed by the House personnel department, which investigated the payroll irregularity involving at least seven Mapis employees.

Mapis is headed by House media director Miguel Genovea.

"Initial investigation showed the time cards of the Mapis employees had been altered to make it appear they did overtime work to justify their request for overtime pay," a member of the House investigating team said.

Since the House has been inactive since early May, the investigators believe the requests for overtime pay were fraudulent.

"It turns out there was no actual work done and the employees concerned were not even seen at their offices on the days they said they did overtime work," a House source said.

Documents furnished the Inquirer showed that three women employees of Mapis were able to collect an average of P26,443 each for the month of May alone.

The names of the Mapis employees involved were withheld pending further investigation.

Probers said it was made to appear the Mapis employees had reported for work at 8 a.m. and stayed up to 11 p.m. everyday from Monday to Sunday for the whole month of May.

Genovea, however, told the Inquirer the employees in question had been assigned to monitor TV, radio and print coverage of Congress during the time of Speaker Manuel Villar.

He said the employees had been allowed to monitor the media coverage from their homes, hence it was possible that they worked up to 11 p.m.

He said that when he learned of the practice, he put a stop to it.

He said the practice of allowing overtime in Congress has been curtailed save for a few employees like drivers, messengers and janitors whose jobs sometime entail they work extra hours.

Rocky Nazareno

Race for Bentain remains on; drum report is negative

By Alcuin Papa

ARMED Forces intelligence agents and the killers of Edgar Bentain are in a race to find the body of the casino employee in the lahar beds of Pampanga.

Lawyer Leonard de Vera said yesterday that those who abducted Bentain are trying to beat the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) in finding the steel drum believed to contain Bentain's remains.

"That drum is essential to the case. Whoever finds it will have a decided advantage if a case is filed," De Vera told reporters at a news conference at the Grand Boulevard Hotel yesterday.

In San Fernando, Pampanga, reports the drum had been found yesterday turned out to be false.

National Bureau of Investigation officials in San Fernando said that what they reported to their superiors in Manila was a 1997 report on the discovery of a man's body stuffed into a drum in Lubao town.

Orlando Dizon, NBI director for Central Luzon, said the drum had been found in 1997 while Bentain was reportedly abducted and killed in January 1999, or more than a year after the drum was found.

The remains of the man, whose description fit Bentain, were eventually claimed by his relatives.

Though he did not say who was racing against the Isafp, De Vera said "it is to be logically expected that whoever executed Bentain in the way described by Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, assuming he was telling the truth, would want to find that drum and dispose of it."

Mawanay, who claimed to have been a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, has accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of ordering the abduction and killing of Bentain in 1999.

Bentain had caused the release of a videotape that showed then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada, playing baccarat in a hotel casino.

At the time of Bentain's disappearance, Lacson was the national police chief and concurrent head of the PAOCTF. He was also a known protégé of Estrada.

Mawanay said Bentain was buried alive near a bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga, on Jan. 16, 1999.

Last week, Mawanay, now under the custody of the Isafp, led Isafp agents to the spot where the drum containing Bentain's remains was allegedly buried.

Isafp agents have begun digging for the drum but have found nothing so far.

Yesterday, various civic groups like the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Sanlakas and the Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership (Clamor) formed the "Justice for Edgar Movement."

The group held a short program in front of the Grand Boulevard Hotel where Bentain was abducted. They said prayers and lit candles for Bentain.

Also present were Teddy Casiño, Bayan secretary general; Dante Jimenez and Lauro Vizconde of the VACC, Bentain family members and Mawanay himself.

De Vera, of the Equal Justice for All Movement, also revealed that he and seven other lawyers have formed an "all-star powerhouse" team to act as legal representatives of Mawanay, beginning yesterday.

The other lawyers in the team are Jose Grapilon, former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines; Ataniones Bacale also of the IBP; Dennis Funa of Clamor; JV Bautista of Sanlakas; Argee Guevarra of the ARM-Lawyers and Nic Conti also of Clamor.

The team, which grilled Mawanay for almost three hours last Saturday, said they found him to be convincing.

"We believe Ador. Not only that, we adore Ador," joked Funa who said Mawanay was "a symbol of courage, confidence and truthfulness."

Mawanay has implicated Lacson and his proteges, Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, in various illegal activities allegedly engaged in by the PAOCTF, including kidnapping, smuggling, drug trafficking, bank robberies and summary executions.

Casiño said there were 69 cases of disappearances during the term of jailed ex-president Estrada. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Baguio re-buries the dead typhoon 'Feria' washed away

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Typhoon "Feria" did not only destroy the shelters of the living but of the dead as well.

On Tuesday, 78 cadavers and broken human bones were reburied in a mass grave after these had been washed out of the city's hillside public cemetery by Feria's strong rains.

Twenty-six cadavers identified by their relatives were re-buried in separate tombs in a level portion of the cemetery.

Feria, one of the strongest typhoons to hit the city, destroyed more than 100 concrete tombs at the Baguio City public cemetery along Naguilian Road. Some tombs had cracked and were swept away by landslides at the height of Feria's onslaught.

Dr. Florence Reyes, city health officer, said they made the rounds of local radio stations here to advise residents that they would re-bury the affected cadavers in a mass grave and to ask them to identify the cadavers before the burial.

"We were worried about the legal implications of the activity but we could not wait any longer because of the environmental (and health) effects these cadavers might cause," she said.

Due to Feria's destruction, Reyes said they are expecting complaints about lost tombs on Nov. 1 this year. She said the human bones and decaying cadavers might cause air and land pollution if these were not buried properly.

"These might be eaten by stray dogs or contaminate water sources," she said.

The unidentified cadavers and bones were buried in a large grave in the cemetery. The grave will be marked "Feria's victims" while the 26 identified remains will be interred in catacombs.

The re-burial of the affected remains was preceded by a short religious ceremony.

Reyes said the typhoon triggered landslides and swept some tombs at least 20 meters from their original sites.

US warns terrorist is on his way to RP

US officials have sought the help of local authorities in foiling the reported plan of a suspected Lebanese terrorist to sneak into the country and launch an attack on American and Israeli facilities here.

Ahmad Yaser Ismail, believed to be working for international terrorist Osama bin Laden, is reportedly set to come to Manila to carry out the bombings of US and Israeli installations, sources at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport said.

Intelligence officers of the US Embassy in Manila have asked immigration authorities to closely monitor the arrival of nationals from the Middle East.

Immigration officers at the country's airports have been on double alert and have been strictly screening foreign nationals.

"We're closely monitoring all flights. From the first flight in the morning to the last flight in the evening. Look, I have not been getting enough sleep the past few days," said an officer who asked not to be named.

Based on intelligence reports, Ismail is now in Vietnam and plans to meet with local contacts in Manila to map out attacks on US and Israeli facilities here.

TJ Burgonio

SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

NEW AIDE-DE-CAMP. President Macapagal-Arroyo administers the oath to Brig. Gen. Alberto Fernando F. Braganza as her senior military assistant and aide-de-camp. Braganza was formerly vice commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Southern Command and chief of staff of the Philippine Army. Looking on is his wife, Chit Braganza.

Church bells talk set

ART historian Regalado Trota Jose traces the history of church bells and their significance in Philippine life in a lecture titled "Tiliting at Bagting" at the National Museum on Saturday, July 14 at 10 a.m.

Western-type bells were introduced to the Philippines by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. Small bells were among the gifts he gave to people he encountered on his voyages.

Bells were also brought in to trade by the Chinese.

The lecture, part of the Lecture 2001 series sponsored by the National Museum Foundation and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, will be held at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall, 4th floor, Museum of the Filipino People (the former Finance Bldg.), Rizal Park. For further information, call Joy at 8150771.

Generalao interment

MIGUEL Generalao will be buried on Saturday, July 14, at the Pryce Memorial Park in Iligan City, after the 9 a.m. Mass at the St. Michael's Cathedral.

Generalao, 37, died July 3 at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute of complications from a kidney ailment.

A mechanical engineer, he worked for Alsons Cement until 1996 when he underwent a kidney transplant.

He is survived by his parents, Pedro, former Iligan City vice mayor, and Petra, a professor at MSU-IIT; and eight sisters and brothers: Minerva, Inquirer research head; Venus Curva, Flora, Antoinette G. Manzo, Pedro, Jesus, Felixberto and Simon.

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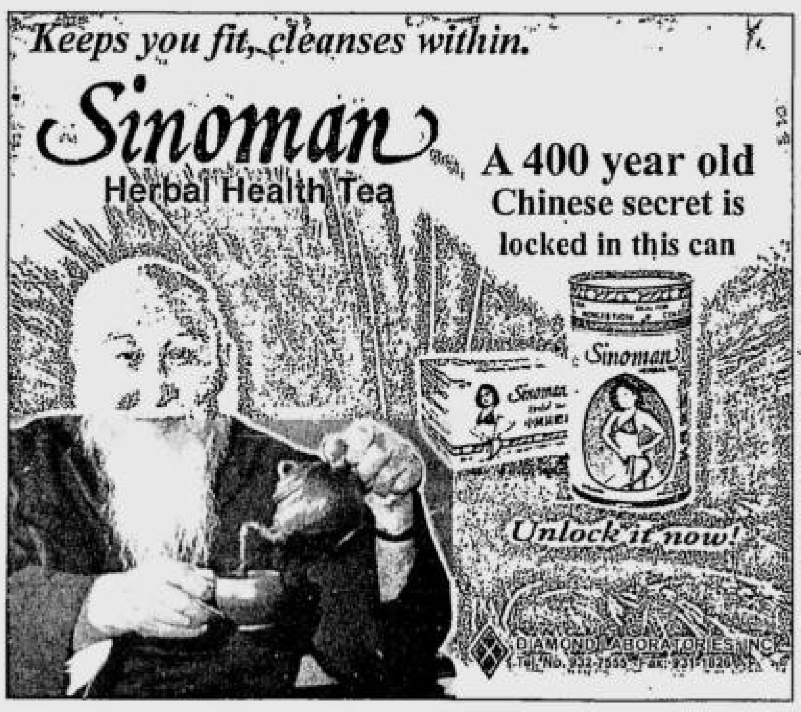
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Tan insists on seeing sequestration papers

By D. Cueto

BEER and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan has asked the Sandiganbayan to compel the Presidential Commission on Good Government to show him the documents that were used as the basis to sequester his properties.

The PCGG, which had been directed to have the documents ready for Tan's inspection at its offices on June 29, had asked the anti-graft court to reconsider its order, citing the "vagueness of the documents sought to be inspected" by Tan.

The Sandiganbayan's fifth division, in a June 15 resolution, had directed the PCGG to produce documents, records and other evidence it had used to issue sequestration orders and writs in 1986 on Tan's properties, including share-holdings in Fortune Tobacco and Allied Banking Corp. and four aircraft.

It also asked the PCGG to provide the minutes of the meetings when the writs and orders of sequestration were discussed and authorized.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo argued that the ruling tended to "oppress the party against whom the request is directed."

He said that if the motion were granted, it would be up to Tan to determine how the PCGG should comply with the order.

Under the ruling, Tan could ask the court to produce non-existent documents and this would "unduly delay" proceedings, Marcelo said.

The solicitor general said the PCGG was not refusing to show Tan the documents he had asked for, but he suggested that Tan and his lawyers could very well go to the PCGG office and look at the documents available in its index.

Tan's lawyers said the documents Tan was asking for were "not vague."

They said that on May 12 and Aug. 2 last year they had written the PCGG chair and commissioners requesting for the same documents.

Tan has sought the background documents on the writs of sequestration on his shares of stocks in Maranao Hotels, Foremost Farms, the Virginia Tobacco Red-rying plant, Northern Tobacco Redrying Co. Inc. and Sipalay Trading Corp.

The four aircraft seized by the PCGG in June 1986 were two Beechcraft Kings, a helicopter and a Hughes 500 D airplane.

Tan's lead lawyer, Estelito Mendoza, filed July 7 an opposition to the PCGG's motion for reconsideration.

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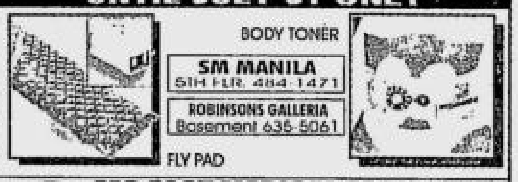
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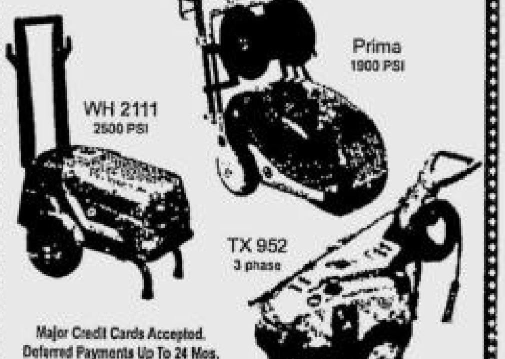

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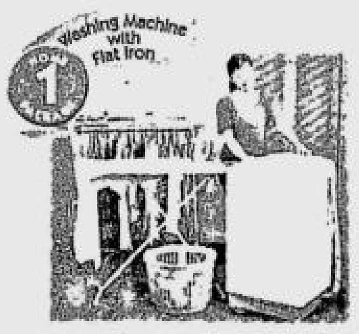
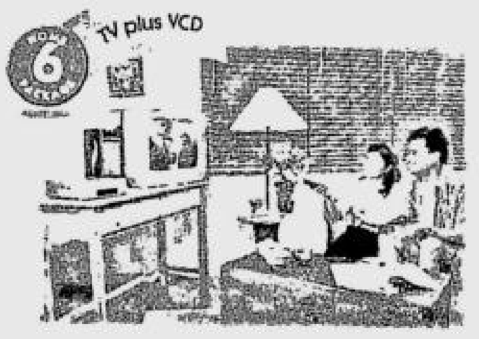

1
Washing Machine with Flat Iron

2
Microwave and Coffeemaker

3
Bedroom Set

4
Dining Set

5
Living Room Set



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Php 3M to 3 999 999.99	Dining Set
Php 4M to 4 999 999.99	Living Room Set
Php 5M and above	TV 50.8 cm (20") with VCD Player

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OPINION

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Dangerous doctrine

EDITORIALS

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada the other day refused to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty during his arraignment on charges of plunder before the Sandiganbayan. Two weeks ago, he spurned entering a plea on a charge of perjury. The Sandiganbayan justices nonetheless entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf to get the trial moving.

Lawyers of Estrada never explicitly stated the reasons for this legal tactic which, in effect, implies that Estrada does not recognize the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan over the cases filed by the Ombudsman against him, his son Jinggoy Estrada and Edgardo Serapio, Estrada's lawyer in the Erap Muslim Scholarship Foundation. The foundation was described in the impeachment trial of Estrada as a "shell" organization.

Legal authorities have interpreted Estrada's refusal to enter a plea as a message that he does not recognize not only the jurisdiction of the court but also the legitimacy of the country's judicial process. If this is correct, then Estrada and his co-accused have postulated a dangerous doctrine that they are above the law and beyond the pale of the judicial system.

Without getting an explanation from Estrada's lawyers, we can only infer that the refusal to enter a plea in the plunder case is based on their argument that the law on plunder is unconstitutional because it is flawed with the "vice of vagueness." Thus, the argument seems to say, until the Supreme Court rules on the issue of the constitutionality of the plunder law, Estrada and his co-accused can ignore the court.

Whether or not the law is shrouded with vagueness is a matter which only the courts can decide. But it is putting the cart before the horse if Estrada does not submit himself to the court's jurisdiction until a ruling on the issue is handed down by the Supreme Court. First, a legal challenge has to be filed with the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the plunder law. Pending a decision, no one has the right to delay the trial.

The arraignment is a judicial landmark in a case that has already set many precedents. This is the first time a president of the republic has been put on trial for offenses arising from his exercise of presidential powers. This is the first time that a president has been arrested and held in detention while he stands trial. And this is also the first time that a president has been impeached.

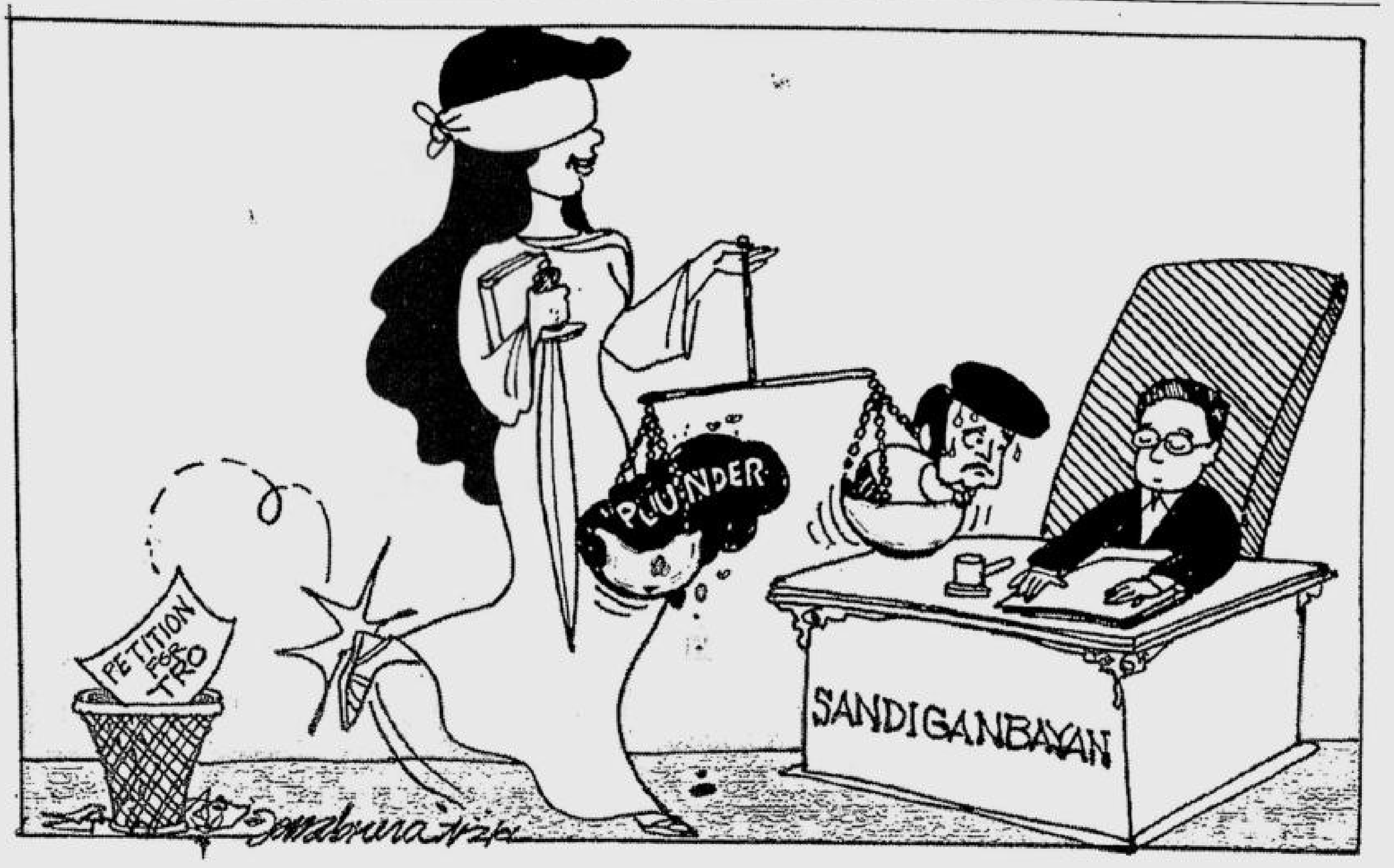
We are traversing unexplored legal territory in the Estrada cases, and, as we have seen, Estrada and his lawyers are putting up obstacles every inch of the way to block a speedy trial. On the basis of the endless ancillary motions filed by his lawyers, we can foresee a protracted litigation that may well go beyond the life of the Macapagal administration. It is obvious a speedy trial is not a priority of Estrada and his lawyers.

Scorn

MANY times, since the Senate blue ribbon committee started hearings on the *jueteng* payoff charges all the way to the impeachment trial, Estrada has asserted he would answer the charges at the proper venue. Well, the impeachment tribunal was one such venue and so is the Sandiganbayan. But each time, he has found a reason not to answer the allegations leveled against him.

At the Sandiganbayan on Tuesday, Estrada emphatically said that he was not Jose Velarde or Asiong Salonga. This reference to the alias he used in opening a bank account with Equitable PCI Bank is a signal that he will challenge any evidence linking him to that account.

The scorn heaped by Estrada on the courts reflects his lack of respect for institutions. In his rise to power, he has never thought much about the importance of institutions, such as political parties or even the judicial system. If he fell back on the impeachment as a constitutional process, he did so only because he thought he could use it as a shield to keep his legitimacy and to survive politically. He thought that his popularity with the masses gave him a mandate to ignore institutions. It is not surprising therefore that he does not recognize the Sandiganbayan's jurisdiction over the case filed against him.



Priority: higher wages or more jobs?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

RIGHT now the most popular thing to do is to join the clamor for an increase in the minimum wage. Politicians are scrambling all over one another to file bills authorizing a P125 increase in the minimum wage. After all, that can translate into votes for them during elections.

Even Catholic bishops have jumped in. That is being pro-poor. That is the right thing to do.

But is it? It cannot be denied that with prices going up and the economy going down, not only the minimum wage earners but most everybody else should get pay increases. (Except, that is, officials of government corporations and government financial institutions: instead of increases, they should get cuts in pay because while the people who pay them are starving, they make millions. That's obscene. How can they fatten themselves on the sweat of the suffering people and still be able to sleep at night?) So the minimum wage should be increased, right? Wrong.

I think the priority now should be to give jobs to more people. But wage increases now may mean throwing more people out of jobs. The financially strapped companies that cannot afford to give legislated wage increases may have to reduce personnel to be able to afford it. Of course, those that can afford it should do right by their employees and raise their pay. But what about those that cannot? They will have to lay off workers. And those that are planning to hire more workers may shelve the plan. The cure to low pay may be worse than the disease.

Is it worth it to increase the pay of a few and deny jobs to others? Isn't it better to give more people jobs even at lower pay? In other countries, it is customary for employees to take pay cuts to save their ailing company. To keep their workers employed, some companies rotate their employees. It is better to have 15 days of work in a month rather than have none at all. It is better to earn a little than none at all. But in the Philippines, we want to give those who are already employed higher salaries even at the risk of having fellow workers lose their jobs. Or denying the jobless the chance to be employed.

Many Filipino companies are suffering from the economic slump. Globalization has made them unable to compete with foreign companies. Higher operating costs will make them even more uncompetitive. If they can't compete, they would surely close down, throwing their workers out of jobs. Is this what we want?

Of course, it is more popular to side with the workers than to speak for the dirty capitalists. But anybody with common sense can readily see that business is suffering because of the economic depression in the world. This is not just the usual excuse or threat of employers. Statistics from the Department of Labor and Employment show that many companies are indeed retrenching and closing down.

When confronted with the dilemma of not getting an increase—or even getting a pay cut—or losing his job, a sensible worker would opt for the pay cut. Better to have a little than none at all. But a legislated wage increase forced on employers will force them to lay off employees. So the matter of pay raises should be left to negotiations between the workers and their employers. The workers know whether their company is making a lot of profit or not. They can decide whether they can bear to have some of their fellow workers thrown out of their jobs so that the lucky ones can be given higher pay. Legislators, who are more concerned with their public images, can't decide for them because they don't know the facts. Congress should lay its hands off the pay increase legislation, very popular though it may be. Let the regional wage boards do it.

When you come down to it, undue salary increases is only a mirage. The employee does take home a bigger pay. But inflation eats up the value of that raise. The employee can buy the same amount of goods, or even less, that he was able to buy before he got the raise. The raise therefore does not do him any good. The inflation rate rises when prices of everything go up. And prices rise because companies have to get more for their products to pay for the higher salaries of their employees.

It is a vicious cycle. When inflation, or rising prices, erode the value of earnings, workers have to get wage increases to be able to afford the goods they need. But the employers have to raise the prices of their goods to be able to afford the bigger wages. So the workers need more money to be able to buy them and so ask for another increase. And the employer raises his prices again, and so on and on and on. That is inflation. The amount of money increases but the amount of goods it can buy remains the same, or even less. Nobody wins; everybody loses.

A labor group argued that when you give workers bigger pay, they would be able to buy more goods and therefore factories can produce and sell more and the economy will improve. True, but the same thing can be achieved by giving more people more jobs. If more people have earnings, they would be able to buy more goods and improve business and the economy. Of course, it would be perfect if a company could hire more people at higher salaries. But what if it cannot?

I think the choice is clear: better to have more jobs even at lower pay, than to have big salaries for only a few.

* * *

When you can't win a case, delay it. This is an axiom in the legal profession.

Another well-known axiom is, "Justice delayed, justice denied." Another is that a detention prisoner should have a quick trial so that he would not be imprisoned unjustly if he is innocent.

Former President Estrada is a detention prisoner. He cannot be bailed out under the law on the crime of plunder. Neither can he be put under "house arrest" because there is no law allowing it. The Sandiganbayan justices can't allow it even if they wanted to. So if Erap is innocent he should be given a quick trial so that he can be declared innocent and be freed as quickly as possible. So why are his lawyers trying to delay his trial?

Now, why didn't I think of that?

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

WE walk in the shadow of intellectual giants. Until the week just past, no one had discovered a simple and cost-free solution to the problem of poverty. But no more. They will soon be handing Nobel Prizes in Economics and Peace to those who have discovered that the way to provide a living wage, raise living standards and abolish poverty is simply by raising the minimum wage by 50 percent or P125 a day. Now, why hadn't anyone else thought of this magnificently simple and brilliant solution before?

Before this was explained to us, we had all been groping in the dark for a straightforward solution to the problems of poverty and inequitable distribution of wealth. Like our colleagues, we too wanted a better life for all, a decent life. The question was, how?

Our neighbors in Asia like Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea and even China opted for a strategy of economic growth and restructuring that would turn their countries into powerhouses and raise the living standards of their citizens some twenty-fold in three decades. Lenin and Mao had to create intricate ideologies, carry out revolutions and go through the nitty-gritty of socialist dictatorship to take their "great leaps forward." All, it turns out, have been completely unnecessary.

And even the capitalists had it all wrong. Econometric models, theories of wages and inflation, and monetary and fiscal policies were the useless and utterly futile strivings of backward minds. We were originally told that you couldn't raise wages without passing its cost somewhere. You could recover it by raising prices of your goods—that's called inflation—in which case you just take the money back indirectly from the people you gave it to directly. That's also called demagoguery.

Or you could recover it by cutting costs and becoming more efficient. One important way, especially when profits are paper-thin or non-existent, is to fire people and give those remaining more work. The result is higher unemployment. Another result is that the newly unemployed simultaneously become even worse off than those who remain unemployed.

Or you can take it from profits, if there are any. This can be done only briefly because capitalists would prefer to close and move their business elsewhere in the world where costs are lower and long-term returns are better. Not only firms compete, so do countries. It's called competition, or globalization. Whatever you prefer, it's human behavior.

How foolish of us to have believed all that rampant nonsense. It turns out that it's all a mirage. Raise wages 20 percent, 50 percent or even 200 percent and nothing will happen except to make all those who are poor newly rich. No inflation. No one will lose jobs. No companies will go bankrupt or close. No one will cheat. Everyone will benefit across the board. True, true happiness will follow. It's sheer genius.

Indeed, why should we stop at P125 more a day? Let's give everyone a First World wage so that everyone can afford all the things we need. Surely, that's the moral thing to do. Let's decree a minimum wage of $50 an hour. And while we're at it, why should government, heretofore the biggest violator of the law by virtue of the exemption it gave itself, remain outside the scope of the rules? Let's give everybody in government the same immediate 50-percent increase. After all, it's only fair, and if it can be done in the private sector, why not the government? And the deficit? Ignore the pink elephant.

Tourist arrivals down 8.4 percent? Irrelevant! The Department of Labor and Employment says 937 firms are on the verge of closing. So what? Aren't our exports down by double digits? Aren't our garments factories unable to compete with lower wages in China? It's a fib or a plot. In any case, it doesn't matter.

Do the non-performing loans of the financial system now hover at 16 percent? Is it closer to 25 or 30 percent because restructured items, those booked as investments and not loans, and creative bookkeeping keep the figures down? Doesn't this indicate the precariousness of many business ventures? Won't a higher minimum wage at this time threaten not only the very existence of many companies but potentially the stability of the entire financial system, and therefore everyone? What are you, anti-poor? Don't worry, be happy.

And won't mandated higher minimum wages of 50 percent ratchet up wages all across the board because of the distortion they will create on pay scales? Won't there be massive non-compliance by those companies that can't afford it? Isn't collective bargaining better? Won't this be a signal to both local and foreign capitalists that policy is made spasmodically and for political rather than sound economic reasons? Isn't inflation a tax on the poor? Isn't unemployment a crime against the poor? Isn't this a straw populism, sounding so pro-poor in rhetoric but anti-poor in fact?

We were all, it turns out, just whistling in the dark. Markets shouldn't make decisions; government bureaucrats, "*pogi*-pointing" politicians and naïve do-gooders should. Gasoline prices are too high worldwide? Order them down. Electricity prices going up? Freeze them. The dollar is stronger than the peso? Fix its rate. Prices too high? Order them down. People's wages too low? Decree a "living wage" then triple it again. People don't have an education? Award them a diploma. People don't have jobs? Invent them, or prevent job loss by law.

Who needs good judgment, experience or common sense? What country needs development? All we need are slogans, good intentions and quick government action. Government can and must fix everything. It is our moral right to demand fixes of it. All you need to govern is heart; the rest is sound bytes.

Sadly, there's only one teeny-weeny problem left standing between us and those elusive Nobel Prizes. If all of this is true, then why isn't North Korea the richest and happiest country in the world? Must be the water.

Collective amnesia

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE OPPOSITION in the Senate has hit President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly "meddling" in the race for the Senate presidency. In a story published last Tuesday, I wrote about reports that the President had begun making known to her Lakas allies her preference for Sen. Franklin Drilon. There were speculations that she preferred Drilon over other PPC aspirants as she hoped he could help her win over the opposition, led by LDP founder Edgardo Angara, to a critical collaboration. Drilon and Angara were longtime associates in the Accra law office founded by the latter, and good friends.

GMA's reported preference for Drilon was criticized by Angara as "meddling" while Sen. Blas Ople said she should not open herself to the charge of "rigging" a Senate election to favor the administration. Sen. Tito Sotto called GMA's move "a brazen attempt at undermining a co-equal branch of government" and said that the reason the Senate has not lost its luster is that no President has interfered in its affairs. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was quoted as saying that GMA's action had no known precedent. "It has not been done in the past, not in the time of Ms Aquino, Mr. Ramos or Mr. Estrada," he said.

* * *

Has the alleged "meddling" never been done before? I'd like to refresh the memory of the distinguished senators who seem to have been suddenly stricken with amnesia, by reprinting my column of July 8, 1999 titled, "Like 2 pregnant women," when former President Estrada brokered what I then called the "pregnant women's solution": nine months in the Senate presidency for Ople and nine months for Drilon. At that time, hardly a pip was ever heard from the senators who are now protesting loudly. Here's the reprint:

SEN. John Osmeña, comforting Majority Leader Franklin Drilon after he lost to Sen. Blas Ople in President Estrada's Solomonic compromise solution, told him, "*Mabilis lang lilipas ang siyam na buwan. Kung ayaw mong maniwala, tanungin mo ang mga buntis.*" Mr. Estrada had proposed a nine-month reign for the 72-year-old Ople, after which he is to relinquish the crown in April 2000 to Drilon who would wear it up to the time of filing certificates of candidacy in February 2001. What Osmeña did not tell his depressed colleague, however, was that, as every woman knows, miscarriages occur sometimes. Mr. Estrada was said to have intervened in the fight for Senate presidency as titular head of LAMP. But the history of the Senate shows that presidents have made their choices known, although not so obviously as this one. Cory Aquino was said to have indicated early on (through her brother-in-law Paul Aquino) that Neptali Gonzales was her choice, not Jovito Salonga. The chamber, however, couldn't ignore the fact that Salonga topped the senatorial elections. But in the end, Ms Aquino, piqued by Salonga's stubbornness on the bases issue, backed a coup to install Gonzales.

Fidel Ramos also made his choice clear through his sister Letty Ramos-Shahani, at whose house the Senate leadership caucuses of the Lakas-LDP alliance were held. Shahani was the weathervane in the various changes in Senate leadership during the Ramos administration.

* * *

The Drilon camp appeared certain that in a showdown, he had the votes, making the compromise solution difficult to accept. But it was perhaps more difficult for Mr. Estrada, since he had given his word to Drilon a year ago that he would succeed Sen. Marcelo Fernan. Tremendous pressure, however, apparently forced Mr. Estrada to back Ople. Among Ople's supporters was Bulletin owner Emilio Yap, who called up some senators on behalf of his columnist. Perhaps the most persuasive, however, was Ople's appeal that he be allowed to crown his long career with the Senate presidency. As I have noted earlier, Mr. Estrada is moved by emotional appeals. In a short phone conversation yesterday, Drilon said that what made him acquiesce to the compromise was the realization that in every fight for the Senate presidency, the "bitterness" spilled into the legislative agenda, which would be stalled for at least a few months. From 1995 to 1998, he recalled, the Senate saw four bitter contests for leadership, from Ed Angara to Gonzales, back to Angara and finally to Ernesto Maceda. Drilon should also remember that in Filipino culture, the younger one defers to the older.

* * *

Drilon's supporters got an inkling that the President was backing Ople at the administration's first anniversary dinner in Malacañang on June 30. Executive Secretary Ronnie Zamora emerged from the marathon broadcast with a grin and teased some senators, "*Ano ang hula ninyo sa* Senate presidency?" They retorted, "*Si* Drilon." Zamora's cryptic response was, "You wanna bet?"

On Monday morning, reports flew that Ople was the anointed, and John Osmeña requested a meeting with the President. He was granted one, but not before an official informed him of Mr. Estrada's Solomonic decision and that he would be asked to help convince Drilon to accept it. Mr. Estrada asked Osmeña and other Drilon allies to help Ople.

The next morning, during breakfast at Drilon's Greenhills home, Osmeña delivered the President's appeal and noted that his colleague softened up on his earlier stand. But they both agreed that a *hati-hati* solution had to be put in black and white and signed by the two rivals, so that nobody would renege on it. Osmeña drafted the document.

* * *

By 10:30 a.m., Sen. Tessie Oreta, another Drilon ally, was calling to say that Mr. Estrada wanted to see them. Ople and his key ally, Kit Tatad, whom the Drilon camp earlier counted among those who were "highly likely" to go for its candidate, were also scheduled to see Mr. Estrada at 2:30 p.m. Oreta and Osmeña had lunch with the President, after which he administered the oath of office to several officials. Drilon was there to attend the oath-taking of an Iloilo official. Later Mr. Estrada called the three to his office, but just before entering, Osmeña asked Drilon what he wanted to do with the draft agreement. Drilon said, "*Dalhin mo na,*" and that was a signal to Osmeña that he was willing to acquiesce to Mr. Estrada's plan. The President appealed to Drilon and then left them to talk to Ople and Tatad in the next room.

Curiously, there was a closed-circuit TV monitor in the room where Drilon and others sat. They could see Tatad vigorously gesticulating, though they couldn't hear the conversation. Ople was quiet.

Finally, Mr. Estrada met with all five senators and the *hati-hati* solution was hammered out. Ople at first wanted to keep the post until Dec. 31, 2000, but the Drilon group felt this would give Drilon only two weeks to run the Senate, since Congress reopens late in January and goes into the campaign recess in mid-February. Mr. Estrada then proposed nine months for each. Afterwards, Drilon said he preferred to stay as majority leader and then nominated Osmeña for Senate president pro tempore. In addition to that new post, Osmeña retains his two committees, energy and finance. *Malakas talaga.* Even though Ople will give up the Senate presidency in April 2000, his second term will actually end only in 2004. Thus, it's safe to assume that after the 2001 senatorial elections he will again go for the post...

Space for open space

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza, "the butcher of Manila's heritage" (I'm quoting myself here) has recently launched a charm offensive in the media. The campaign is apparently intended to counter the battering he's gotten from conservationists and environmentalists on his plan to use part of the Mehan Gardens (also known as the "Jardin Botanico" or Botanical Garden) as the site of the City College of Manila.

Among the arguments relayed by his new champions (among them a slew of entertainment writers) was that the proposed building would not occupy the entire Mehan Gardens but only part of it. Another point raised is that the place has long been neglected and ignored, even by those now rushing to save it. If they love the Mehan Gardens so much, why didn't they raise funds for its rehabilitation? Which is why construction of a college building within the area would ensure that the area would be rehabilitated and maintained.

Let's touch on the last point first, because this seems to be a view commonly held by government officials. They seem to think that an open space or patch of greenery is worth "saving" only if it can be put to "good" use, like a building, a mall, a school, a parking lot or a complex of restaurants. It's as if an open field, trees and greenery don't have a right to exist on their own, or as a park, promenade or plaza, unless they're put to more practical use. As if breathing space that affords citizens a respite from concrete and urban decay—providing fresh air, space, quiet and peace—does not serve any good purpose and not worth maintaining. Officials argue that their local governments could always use some extra revenue, which is why they hate seeing "unused" space go to waste. I have my suspicions, though that it isn't so much revenue for the local government as "commissions" over and under the table that impel a building spree. Where would you get kickbacks, after all, if there are no building projects for your favored contractors?

* * *

NOW to the question of "Where have all the opposers been all this time? Why try to save the Mehan Gardens only now?"

An obvious reply is that it's only now that the Mehan Gardens has been directly threatened. True, it had long been neglected and had been put to various nefarious uses in the dark. But if it was threatened at all, it was by time, decay and benign neglect. Only now is its supposed protector, the city government, proposing to put an end to its existence as a park.

Second, the duty to preserve the Mehan Gardens, to maintain its landscape so that Manilans could use it as a refuge from urban stress, is the duty of the city government and the mayor. The environmentalists, the conservationists and the heritage society were not and are not obliged to provide funds for its upkeep. Local officials are. So whose fault is it that the Mehan Gardens has been turned into an underlighted eyesore? Don't forget, this is Mayor Atienza's second term, and before that, he was vice mayor for another two terms, so he had almost a decade to rehabilitate the place for which his heart now supposedly bleeds.

I'm sure, too, that if the city government had only launched a sincere program to "save" the Mehan Gardens (the same way the mayor is now fighting for his building), then all these bleeding hearts would have willingly worked with them to restore it to its old glory. It took only a small group of dedicated women to create a mini-forest park in nearby Arroceros, and all Mayor Alfredo Lim had to do then was to give them permission to work on the property. But now, even the work of these women is being threatened by the construction-happy Mayor Atienza.

* * *

NOW to address the argument that the City College building will occupy only a portion of the Mehan Gardens, so what's the fuss?

The fuss is that once a concrete structure invades an open space, it acts like a wedge that keeps the doors open to even more concrete construction. Okay, so the City College will occupy only a third of the Mehan Gardens. But what's to stop future college administrators from petitioning the city government to build, oh, a canteen, a chapel, or even additional classrooms once the student population grows too big for its original building? Who will speak up for trees, hedges, botanicals and other plants when the welfare of students, faculty and administrators is invoked? Remember, trees and plants don't vote.

Even now, the groups which have joined to oppose the mayor's plan claim that the college is just a "smoke screen" for an even grander, or more nefarious, scheme. The scheme, they say, threatens not just the Mehan Gardens but Arroceros Park as well as that other neglected jewel of Manila's past known as the Metropolitan Theater, restored to its art deco splendor some 20 years ago, only to be struck down by neglect and indifference.

* * *

ACCORDING to the groups, Atienza is hoping to focus the controversy on the Mehan Gardens alone, and is "scrupulously avoiding discussion on the mall/parking lot/bus terminal right behind the Metropolitan Theater."

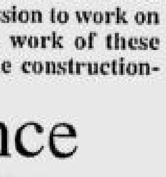
While construction of the college building has yet to begin, the parking lot is up and running. "Soon to follow will be the impending massacre of trees at the Arroceros Forest Park to 'make way' for a teachers dormitory, which the mayor has vowed to build for them," the groups say. (Is the dorm in payment for the teachers' "help" in the last elections?)

And once started on his building spree, do you think Atienza will pause and let sentiment, let alone historical significance, stop him from destroying the Metropolitan Theater like he did the Jai Alai building?

Exuberance

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



EXUBERANCE, *n* **1:** The quality or state of being exuberant **2:** an exuberant act or expression.

Exuberant, *adj* **1 a:** joyously unrestrained and enthusiastic **b:** lacking compactness and discipline: flamboyantly overdone <writing spoiled by ~overdrawn metaphors> **2:** extreme or excessive in degree, size or extent **3:** produced in extreme abundance: plentiful. **Synonym** see Profuse, **Antonym** Austere, Sterile.

In Filipino, exuberance probably translates as *kagalakan? Nagkakandarapa?* Give *na* give, feel *na* feel at *ipinapadarama sa madla.*

Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr. admits to being exuberant or displaying exuberance but does not plead guilty to being partial or biased against former President Joseph Estrada. Why should exuberance, which Badoy calls a trait or style of his, be taken against him?

All the delaying tactics in the book are now being used by the defense camp to delay Estrada's prosecution. A deluge of motions—68 in all—have been filed by his lawyers and inhibiting Badoy is only one of them. Badoy responded with 20 pages to prove he "had no reason to be biased against the accused."

On the contrary, there is reason for Badoy to be suspected of being biased for the accused. Didn't Badoy say not too long ago that he developed a soft spot for Estrada when he was still working in the Senate and Estrada, then a neophyte senator, would fix his tie or make small talk with him? Maybe that was Badoy's way of saying he couldn't have anything personal against this man.

Badoy's June 9 resolution denying house arrest for Estrada contains some portions which, the defense insists, shows bias but which Badoy thinks has been misconstrued as bias. Because Badoy had exuberated thusly: "With the prosecution and indictment of a President, even while sitting as President, a new day has finally dawned for our country and people. The court is called upon to contribute to its share in pushing the momentum of the day forward to the end that the light and luster of that day many not be extinguished like dying embers in the freezing cold of a lonely Gulag winter night.

"The clarion call to arms, the warning must ring loud, clear and unmistakable to one and all—that, henceforth, even the powerful and the mighty will be held to account for, and explain their acts."

I can hear strains of Wagner.

Badoy responded to doubters by saying that the above was simply style and that "there was nothing in that 'momentum of the moment' thing that indicates bias. Perhaps exuberance, yes, but exuberance has something to do more with style than with substance. And as every individual has characteristics unique only to him, so it is with style. And, if you prefer, let us just say the tendency towards 'exuberance' happens to be part of my style." Thus spake Anacletus. Badoy was probably named after the exuberant (was he?) immediate successor of Saint Peter.

His decision, Badoy noted, was mandated by the conclusions reached after long and serious study. And his style was all his own. It was, no doubt, an attempt at being grandly literary. But it's so much better, if not more entertaining, don't you think, than court legalese devoid of exuberance and sounding like the "freezing cold of a lonely Gulag winter night."

Among Asians, Filipinos are comparatively exuberant by nature, florid in the way we express things. Maybe Badoy was having a soul-stirring experience or a rush of adrenaline while he was writing his decision against house arrest and his "new day has finally dawned" opus was the best way he could express himself—with trumpets and all. Something must have stirred in the stillness inside him and he couldn't but break out in those profusion of metaphors.

My Random House Thesaurus of Slang has these American colloquialisms for exuberant and exuberance: bounce, piss and vinegar, zip, zap, pep, juice, go juice, sock, pepper, get up and go, chipper, bouncy, zingy, zippy, zappy, feeling one's oats, full of piss and vinegar, full of prunes, have lead in one's pencil.

Badoy was feeling his oats and had lead in his pencil.

But I like to think of exuberance as more than just a bouncy, *nagkakandarapa* way of expressing one's eagerness. It could be a solemn and passionate expression of deep joy and awe.

Exuberance is assassinated civil rights leader Martin Luther King shouting to the world, "I have a dream...that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the tough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight..."

Exuberance is Filipinos tearfully bursting into song: "*Ibon man may layang lumipad, kulungin man ay pumipiglas.*" It is Rizal immortalizing his goodbye with "*Adios patria adorada, region del sol querida, perla del mar de oriente, nuestro perdido eden.*" It is poet and mystic Rabindranath Tagore speaking to his Beloved: "My poet, is it thy delight to see thy creation through my eyes and to stand at the portals of my ears silently to listen to thine own eternal harmony? Thy world is weaving words in my mind..."

Exuberance is a woman named Mary crying out with her grand Magnificat about the poor being lifted up and the powerful and mighty being cast down from their thrones.

It is Thomas Merton making his oblation: "*O beata solitudo!* Now my sorrow is over and my joy is about to begin; the joy that rejoices in the deepest sorrows. For I am beginning to understand. You have taught me, and have consoled me, and I have begun again to hope and learn."

It is me, after more than a decade in journalism, gasping in amazement and awe: "Nobody told me it would be like this."

And my favorite...Exuberance is Carlos Bulosan, after clawing his way out of penury and pain, sobbing out a solemn vow: **"Yes, I will be a writer and make all of you live again in my words."**

Dream or reality?

YOUNGBLOOD

Charlie Crisostomo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

HAVE you ever felt like you were half-awake and half-asleep? I have—for two years, five months and 15 days now.

It all began during the second semester of my fourth year in college. I was loaded with assignments, I was living the life of a person who was about to graduate in a few months and start working in the corporate world. But when I celebrated my 21st birthday, something snapped inside me and I just started living a double life. Outside, I was normal, doing things I was supposed to do. But inside, I just felt hopeless, in despair and lonely. I was filled with overwhelming sadness and fear. I didn't want to face the fact that I was growing older and that I was going to enter a new world that was so different from what I knew.

I was living what seemed like a charmed life. I was being cared for by my parents. I was earning money from a small business that I had. I had friends. I was making good progress on my thesis. I was head of our college organization. I was living a very normal life.

Then I suddenly hit rock bottom emotionally. I never told anyone that I was not feeling very good inside. It was all self-diagnosis. It was depression, pure and simple. I did not reach out because I thought that I could handle it by myself. I didn't want to tell people that there was something wrong in my head. I was ashamed and afraid that they would look and act differently toward me.

Even though my family was supportive and okay, it was hard to talk to my parents about my mental condition. They are conservative in a lot of ways. Would you believe that I wasn't allowed to sleepover until I was 20 years old? We didn't discuss a lot of things bordering on our feelings and emotions. They provided for me very well. They sent me to the best schools and worked hard to make our life comfortable in every respect. We would talk over dinner about school and anything under the sun but we were just not the kind of family that sat down and discussed our feelings. We were afraid of emotions. I grew up being a loner and introvert.

No one who knows me would believe that I am now describing myself as a loner. In school I was very sociable and friendly. I told a lot of stories. I behaved exactly opposite to what I really was inside.

I was afraid of sharing my thoughts and experiences with others. I couldn't talk about my problems with my family or friends.

I don't know why it's so hard for me to open up to other people, even if they are willing to lend a hand. I try to solve everything by myself. Sometimes I would succeed but there are times that I would fail. And then I would simply suppress my inner turmoil.

These past two years, I have given my parents a lot of heartaches and disappointments. I wasn't able to graduate on time and up to now I still lack a few units to finish my degree. The hard part is that everyone outside our family thinks that I already graduated. I have embroiled my whole family in a deception.

I didn't want to embarrass my family. Everyone knew me to be a good student and I didn't give my parents any trouble. I didn't do drugs. I followed all the rules in the house. I was very responsible and dutiful.

All our relatives and friends admired those traits of mine. My parents were proud of me. Until I turned 21 and became both an embarrassment and disappointment to them. But they were still there, encouraging me to finish school, but I couldn't face my fear and the realities of the world I was living in.

I have been living in a state of confusion and acting strangely. I just lost interest. I was afraid of becoming an adult. I was experiencing to a certain degree the Peter Pan complex. (Remember the child who never wanted to grow up?)

I have realized that the reason I am what I am now is that I do not truly know what I really want to be. I don't even know who I am. What is my purpose in life? There is no clear answer that presents itself. I have been searching for the answer for years, but nothing comes into mind. I have to have the answer soon or it may be too late. I might suddenly wake up and realize that I have lost everything.

I thought that what is happening to me only happened in movies or in books. Maybe I have been greatly affected by my desire to live a different life from what I was given. I am not contented with my life. I need to feel that I am truly happy, to be at peace with myself. But how can I be, when I only feel that I am drowning in sorrow and longing?

Maybe all these are only in my head. Maybe I think too much. Maybe I am destined to live like this.

I have made many choices that I regret now. I am a big disappointment. I am growing old but regressing. Somewhere in my life I made a wrong turn and now I cannot find the right direction. I am a pretty messed-up person right now.

My life has been a blur. I don't even remember living my life. My life is empty. Everything is a figment of my imagination...or maybe not. Maybe it's all in my head like my parents and friends say. I think too much. I live in a world created by my own mind.

Ever since I can remember I have been both a fatalist and a pessimist. I've been scared...lonely...sad...depressed. And I don't do anything to banish these fears. What should I do?

People my age are doing things that I've only dreamed of doing. Maybe that is another problem of mine. I live in my own dream world. I know that I exist but I don't know if I am truly alive. I may be alive but I always think that I would suddenly awaken from a deep slumber and realize that what I am living now is all but part of a dream—or a nightmare. Maybe this is not really my life that I am living. Maybe I am just an observer. Maybe I am just really living another person's life.

Is life really so complicated? Or am I just complicating it? Why can't life be easy and simple?

But life was given to us with all its trials and tribulations so that we can overcome them and experience a sense of fulfillment. Life is really a journey full of discovery and awakenings. I am just starting to bring it all together.

I am between reality and the dream world. Which is the truth? Which is not real?

When will I wake up from this madness?

Charlie Crisostomo, 23, still lives with his parents and is looking for a job.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Ransom and rescue

"Even we retired officers get hurt when we read in the papers that hostages are released not because they were rescued but because ransom was paid."

—Former Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia

Candid confession

"In the Philippines, which paper has no bias?"

—Dante Tan, new owner of the Manila Times and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's publicist

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History

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT was a fantastic picture that came out on the foreign page of this newspaper the other day. A South Korean kid in semi-hip-hop gear, today's youth's obligatory uniform, is raptly looking at a photograph of Japanese soldiers bayoneting a South Korean man. The photograph is part of an exhibit called "Japan's Distorted History Textbook," which opened at the National Assembly Building in Seoul last July 10.

The story that went with the picture said the exhibit was part of South Korea's effort to show the true nature of the Japanese occupation during World War II, a side of the war the Japanese refuse to acknowledge to this day. The other part of that effort, a more important one, is South Korea's demand for Japan to revise its official history textbooks to show the atrocities its forces committed against Koreans and other Asians during the war.

Japan told Seoul last Monday so sorry, but it could revise only two of 35 disputed passages in its official textbooks, nothing more. The two are the least important of the items Seoul wants rewritten to fit reality.

"I am shocked," South Korean President Kim Dae-jung said about Japan's answer. "We can't condone this situation. Our government will continue to demand revision of the history textbooks." To that end, he refused to meet with a high-level delegation of Japanese officials who had gone to Seoul to explain Japan's position on the textbooks.

Ah, but aren't you envious of people who take their history this seriously? I know I am. It does say something about the national mettle. For some people at least, history is not just the collection of names and dates that you memorize to pass high school or college. It is the accretion of meanings that define you, in the same way that your family history defines you, or makes you what you are, and that you treasure like a prized inheritance as you go through life. Or it is the living past, one that flows to the present and gives sustenance to the present in the way that water does to fish.

We've pretty much followed South Korea's lead in arraigning a crook of a president. We can do better by following its lead in demanding a more accurate depiction of the past from our former invaders. It's far more meaningful than just demanding that the Oxford Dictionary revise its definition of maid as a Filipina, or vice versa (which, in any case, turned out to be a false report; OED does not carry such an item), or that some European country apologize for naming a confection Filipino for being brown on the outside and white on the inside. I do not know that the national honor is upheld by this prissiness. I do know that national survival is imperiled by people saying the horrors of the past are best forgotten, life goes on.

I do know as well that some groups have been busy pushing for the recognition—and compensation—by Japan of its sex slaves, whom its soldiers cruelly called "comfort women." And I understand that they've met with a measure of success. A multinational group of women last year formed a tribunal that tried Japan for war crimes, particularly against women, and found it guilty. It is a tremendous moral victory at least, if not a legal or diplomatic one: to this day, Japan adamantly refuses to admit its soldiers kept sex slaves, even if it has unofficially been making overtures to appease the groups pressing for compensation.

The effort can do with official help from the Philippine government. As South Korea shows, it is more than a matter of record, it is a matter of justice. It is more than a matter of compensation, it is a matter of right and wrong. It is more than a matter of honor, it is a matter of national survival.

I myself cannot understand Japan's refusal to acknowledge guilt in the war. It is a monumental paradox in a country that so values honor kids commit hara-kiri after failing to pass exams. Or maybe it's that kind of extremism that makes it possible. You either kill yourself or lie to yourself to keep honor—and the country has gone past the stage of wanting to kill itself. Germany did the opposite, with the most salutary results. It made the Holocaust known, and produced a generation of Germans hating war with a passion. Seoul has a point when it says there is something hypocritical in a country extending the hand of peace with a bloodied hand, or words to that effect. There can be no forgiveness without contrition.

For our part though, I don't know why we shouldn't extend the demand for a revision of the history books to all our conquerors. Chief of them the United States, which has managed to make us the villains rather than the victims of its occupation of this country. Or at least to make itself the hero of the story. It wasn't just the Japanese who wreaked atrocities in this country. The Americans did, too, during its own occupation of the country. A chapter that is barely known to many Filipinos, and certainly a chapter that does not exist in the American textbooks, official or otherwise.

As I pointed out the other day, there is a marker in Union Square in San Francisco that extols the victory Commodore Dewey and his navy won in the Philippines at the turn of the 20th century. The other side of that victory is the decimation of the Filipino population, particularly in Samar, which the occupation forces turned into a "howling wilderness." The United States, quite incidentally, has not returned the bells of Balangiga, and if Rodel Rodis is to be believed, an American senator is determined to fight off any attempt by any nation, especially the Philippines, to reclaim American war booty. But that is another story.

I do recall that, years ago, my friend Obet Verzola proposed that as part of the Centennial celebrations—and Independence Day being celebrated on June 12 rather than July 4—we should lobby to make America apologize for its own atrocities against us. The Centennial celebrations are over, but I don't know that his proposal doesn't remain a meritorious, and actionable, one to this day. A life unexamined, a saying goes, is a life unlived. What applies to an individual applies to a nation as well—probably more so. That examination cannot dredge up only the pleasant things of the past, it has to dredge up the unpleasant things as well. The truth won't just set you free, it will make you whole.

A people who cannot take their history seriously can only be—history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Schooling and family planning

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"THE MAIN problem is not drugs or prostitution, it's early marriage." That observation came from Dennis Villamar, a youth leader and newly elected municipal councilor from Maddela, Quirino. He was describing the problems that young people face in his town, during a recent consultation on adolescent health organized by the Foundation for Adolescent Development (FAD).

I've written about that workshop in an earlier column, pointing out the need for sex education but the consultation also inspired me to do another column on the broader social context that affects young people's sexual health.

Dennis was describing a remote town in Northern Luzon, but his observation about early marriages resonated throughout the workshop as other participants from different parts of the Philippines spoke of similar problems. While they spoke, I kept thinking of the statistics from the last National Demographic Survey, which found that by the age of 20, one-fifth of our females would have started bearing children, a few already into their second or third pregnancy. The problem is not premarital sex; most of these pregnancies occur within marriage.

Al-Trekee Dayan of the Mindanao State University in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, talked about early marriages among the Muslim youth, including the culture of silence around matters of sex and sexuality that force the young to have "secret" relationships, eventually ending up in elopement. It is not, as people like to think, a matter of "loose morals" among the young, but of the lack of options.

As Al-Trekee spoke, I thought too about the political problems in Muslim areas, and how these affect the young. I could imagine how early marriage may actually become the only sensible option for young Muslims, giving them a sense of stability in a strife-ridden world.

Research conducted among young adults by the Health Action Information Network (HAIN) shows that Filipino youths will get married soon after they believe they're "ready (*handa na*)." Readiness is of course subjective: for upper-class young Filipinos, this could mean a postgraduate degree, a job that pays at least P100,000 a month, a house and lot, a hefty bank account. For most young Filipinos, readiness is determined by much more modest indicators, for example a job that pays the minimum wage. It's not surprising then that for many low-income Filipino youth, marriage occurs soon after they start working, no matter how meager the income might be.

Poverty affects the young's sexual lives in many ways. Low-income parents are more reluctant to speak about sex and sexuality with their children, or when they do talk about sex, they may pass on many misconceptions and myths. This leaves the schools to fill the vacuum, but only 60 percent of Filipino youths are able to finish high school. This means almost half of our young people will not be able to get some form of sex education.

As I mentioned in the last column, sex education is not just a matter of anatomy and physiology. Our public high schools have finally began to expand the curriculum to include other important information that young people need to develop a healthy sexuality. This includes "life skills," being able to talk with your partner and to negotiate the confusing world of macho values. Such life skills are especially important for young girls who, on one hand, are expected to remain chaste and to resist their boyfriend's sexual advances, but are also being told that their virginity is the most precious gift they have to offer their boyfriends and that having sex is a way of proving their love for their boyfriends. Young males and females need to be able to talk about how they can deal with these conflicting demands. This needs to be done in schools, where young people feel more comfortable and free to talk about these sensitive topics.

Life skills education are, as the term implies, for the long term. Without these skills, young girls are not just more vulnerable to getting pregnant but may be defenseless as they meet other problems in the future such as domestic violence.

Life skills education, with its emphasis on gender equity, is also important if we are to change the next generation of males, away from their notions of sexual domination and possession toward a sexuality based on responsibility and mutual consent.

Villamar was right when he pointed out that a strategy to tackle adolescent reproductive health should address the problem of school dropouts. It may sound strange but more support for the young to stay in school may yet be the most effective family planning measure. When the young see education as an option, they will postpone sex and later, when they do become sexually active, they will be more likely to plan their families.

What we have today is a completely different situation. The lack of information on sexuality and family planning means a high population growth rate, which strains our tiny budgets for education and which leads to many young people dropping out before they get education on sexuality and life skills. They then start new families too early, and are less likely to plan the families, bringing on another generation that will suffer from the lack of social services that will again produce more dropouts. The worst is yet to come.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

LETTERS

Beyond grand gestures, fine words

IN THE LIGHT of the present situation as regards land reform, it is surprising that the media downplayed the President's donation of a fifth of the total land that the Arroyos own in Negros. These lands were gifts from the Spanish crown that go a long way back. It is hard not to cast a wary eye on fine gestures like this because of the history of land reform which started from her father's administration in the early 1960s.

It is a sad fact that former President Corazon Aquino did not push for the redistribution of her family's vast, Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac although she signed the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. Who wouldn't get disillusioned by that?

It is pathetic to see the traditional elite holding on to their last vestiges of wealth and power: their lands. The fact that the President's gesture was hardly noticed was because of our disillusionment with grand displays of power and benevolence that often mean nothing relative to the monstrosity of the problem.

The President realizes that modernizing our agricultural sector will make our agricultural products competitive in the world market. Cheap sugar imports have killed our sugar industry. Land reform will also dispel our crippling culture of patronage that in effect will redistribute economic and consequently political power.

Although she has given a fine example, many more remain landless. In the coming years, the President must prove her sincerity or else go down the annals of our history as another failure as a leader.

The other members of the elite are reluctant to give way to true land reform. Philippine politics is still filled with the elite who have land-based wealth in the traditional sense as opposed to a few who have industry-based wealth in the modern sense. It will take more than grand gestures and fine words to uplift the plight of our suffering countrymen. In the end, who heard?—**RINA LIM, 269 P. Guevarra St., San Juan, Metro Manila**

Pag-Ibig turns to 'Pang-Ipit'

THE PAG-IBIG Fund wants to cover up its incompetence by asking its borrowers to pay for its mistakes.

My mother, Rosalinda V. Carrera, obtained a housing loan in 1984. She religiously paid the monthly amortization, until January 2001 when she decided to pay the loan amount in full.

However, she was advised by officers of the Pag-Ibig Fund that she could not yet get the land title. She was told that she had an outstanding balance of more than P5,000. Apparently, one amortization payment in the mid-1980s was double posted, and an accumulated interest was being charged.

After two months of discussions with the Pag-Ibig Fund, we just decided to pay the P5,000. We were then told that we still had to pay P8,000 more for another posting mistake in 1994.

Now this is just plain stupid. Here we are, paying our honest dues, and we are now being asked to pay for the mistakes of the "Pag-Ipit Fund."

This example of incompetence and arrogance is what's setting back the housing program in the Philippines. They seem to say that it really is wiser and cheaper to just squat.—**ROMMEL V. CARRERA, RCarrera@rohmhaas.com**

Transfer Malacañang to Mindanao

I USUALLY do not agree with what politicians are saying. But this time, I second the motion of Vice President and concurrent Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. to transfer Malacañang to Mindanao.

Such a move will kill two birds with one stone. I personally believe that the question of secession will go away if such a plan materializes. But the most sensible argument for such a move is that some parts of Mindanao are outside the typhoon belt. Of course, I have in mind my province, Zamboanga. Basilan used to be a part of Zamboanga, which is also nearer to Sulu.

If the Philippines insists on keeping the Palace in Manila, it has to reckon with the yearly floods and typhoons that gobble up the contingency budget of the President.

As of today, the people from the north do not even have a fair idea of the kind of place Zamboanga is. Perhaps, it was a problem of communication. In fact, long before Kawit, Cavite, Zamboanga was already free of Spanish rule. Mindanao also has heroes. There were not only eight provinces that revolted against Spain. Historians should correct this anomaly in the flag.

The Netherlands has two capitals. Why can we not have as many or even more? The north should have one to take care of the northern part of the country. Manila is the historical capital. Cebu can be the educational capital. But let one of the cities in Mindanao serve as the place where the presidential palace will be. This will give importance to our citizens in the south.—**HONORIO E. YBERA JR. 2946 26th Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94132 USA**

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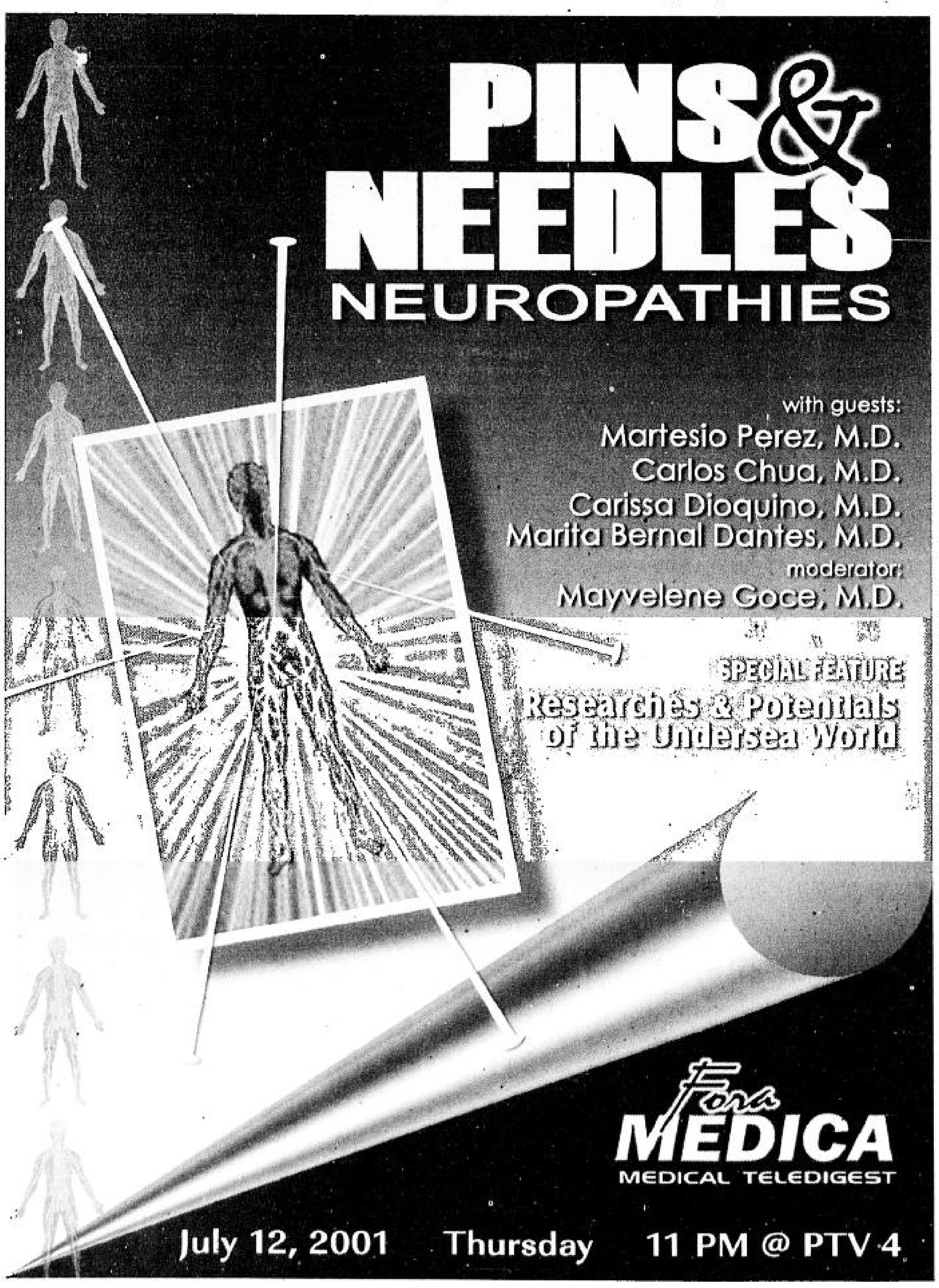

PINS & NEEDLES
NEUROPATHIES
with guests:
Martesio Perez, M.D.
Carlos Chua, M.D.
Carissa Dioquino, M.D.
Marita Bernal Dantes, M.D.
moderator:
Mayvelene Goce, M.D.
SPECIAL FEATURE:
Researches & Potentials of the Undersea World
Fora MEDICA
MEDICAL TELEDIGEST
July 12, 2001 Thursday 11 PM @ PTV 4

Palace doubts 'exodus' of Chinoy students

MALACAÑANG said yesterday it regretted reports that some Chinese-Filipino families have decided to send their children to China to study in the wake of renewed kidnap-for-ransom activities in Metro Manila and other places in the country.

"We regret that report if it was accurate," Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

But he pointed out the report did not show any figures to support the conclusion that more Chinese-Filipino students were leaving for China.

Tiglao said it was the usual practice among Chinese-Filipino tycoons to send their children to China to study so they could learn the language and get to know their roots.

He cited Michael Tan and Lance Gokongwei, sons of tycoons Lucio Tan and John Gokongwei, respectively, who were sent to school in China some years ago.

Tiglao said China being an emerging "big economic player" may have also played a factor in the tycoons' decision to send their children there.

Juliet Labog-Javellana

Taiwan trade group here on visit that may upset China

TAIWAN Economics Minister Lin Hsin-yi arrived yesterday with a trade contingent to meet with Filipino trade officials and businessmen in a visit that could provoke a complaint from China.

Lin, traveling with 26 other Taiwanese economic officials, will meet with Trade Secretary Mar Roxas in a conference aimed at expanding their economic ties, Taiwanese officials said.

Lin also came with more than 60 Taiwanese businessmen looking for investment opportunities in the Philippines. He will return home Saturday.

The Chinese Embassy in Manila did not immediately comment on Lin's visit.

China opposes any official exchanges with Taiwan by countries with which Beijing has diplomatic relations.

China claims Taiwan is a breakaway province with no right to its own foreign relations. The Philippines has diplomatic relations with Beijing, but maintains strong unofficial and economic ties with Taipei.

Lin was met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by Taiwanese officials and Nelly Favis-Villafuerte, an undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry.

He is scheduled to meet with Roxas and other officials to find ways of expanding bilateral relations in the areas of fishing, agriculture and investment.

"The purpose of the joint ministerial conference, of course, is to look for better economic ties between the two countries, in trade, investment and whatever possible cooperation," said Benjamin Lo, head of Taiwan's de facto embassy in Manila.

"There is nothing political. It's about trade," said Robert Shih, an embassy spokesman.

Taiwan has a large business presence in the Philippines and is the country's fourth largest investor. Some of its biggest companies, including Acer Computers, have factories at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Two-way trade amounted to US$6.5 billion last year.

AP

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, Editor

Cops want lie test for Condit

WASHINGTON—US Rep. Gary Condit still is not a suspect in Chandra Levy's disappearance, but police say they continue to need more information from him.

Having interviewed Condit three times, police now want the California Democrat to take a lie detector test and submit a DNA sample. They said they also were searching his apartment for clues about Levy's whereabouts.

"What you're looking for could involve blood, hair, telltale signs of a struggle," Executive Assistant Police Chief Terrance Gainer, Washington's second-ranking police official, said Tuesday.

Police were acting in response to an invitation by Abbe Lowell, the congressman's lawyer, to allow a search and submit to a DNA test, Chief Charles Ramsey said.

"It's not saying he's a suspect or that we expect to find anything," Ramsey said. "We are doing the responsible thing and following up on (Lowell's) offer."

Police continue to seek "clarity" from Condit about his relationship with Levy, Ramsey said. He said the latest requests of Condit also could provide "comfort" to the Levy family.

Gainer said authorities would conduct an "open-ended search," and probably would employ a chemical, Luminol, that with the help of an ultraviolet light, allows blood to be seen even on surfaces that have been cleaned or painted.

Asked specifically whether police would be looking for blood and signs of a struggle, Gainer said, "Why else do you think we'd search?"

Police, however, say they had no evidence of foul play and still classified the investigation as a missing persons case.

Investigators spent about four hours inside Condit's apartment late Tuesday and early Wednesday, entering shortly before midnight and leaving a little before 3 a.m. It was not clear whether they planned to return, or whether Condit was home during their search.

Ramsey had said police contacted Lowell to set up a time for the search and to see whether Condit will submit to the polygraph test and give the DNA sample.

Condit said nothing to reporters as he went into a meeting of conservative Democrats at the Capitol. Later, he cast votes on the House floor and chatted with colleagues.

Condit's lingering involvement in the police investigation has made for an awkward situation in Congress. When his fellow conservative Democrats held a news conference on energy policy, reporters eventually posed questions about Condit.

Rep. Max Sandlin of Texas called Condit a "serious policy player." But when asked if he thought Condit should resign, Sandlin said, "I don't think that's my decision to make. That's a decision for others to make."

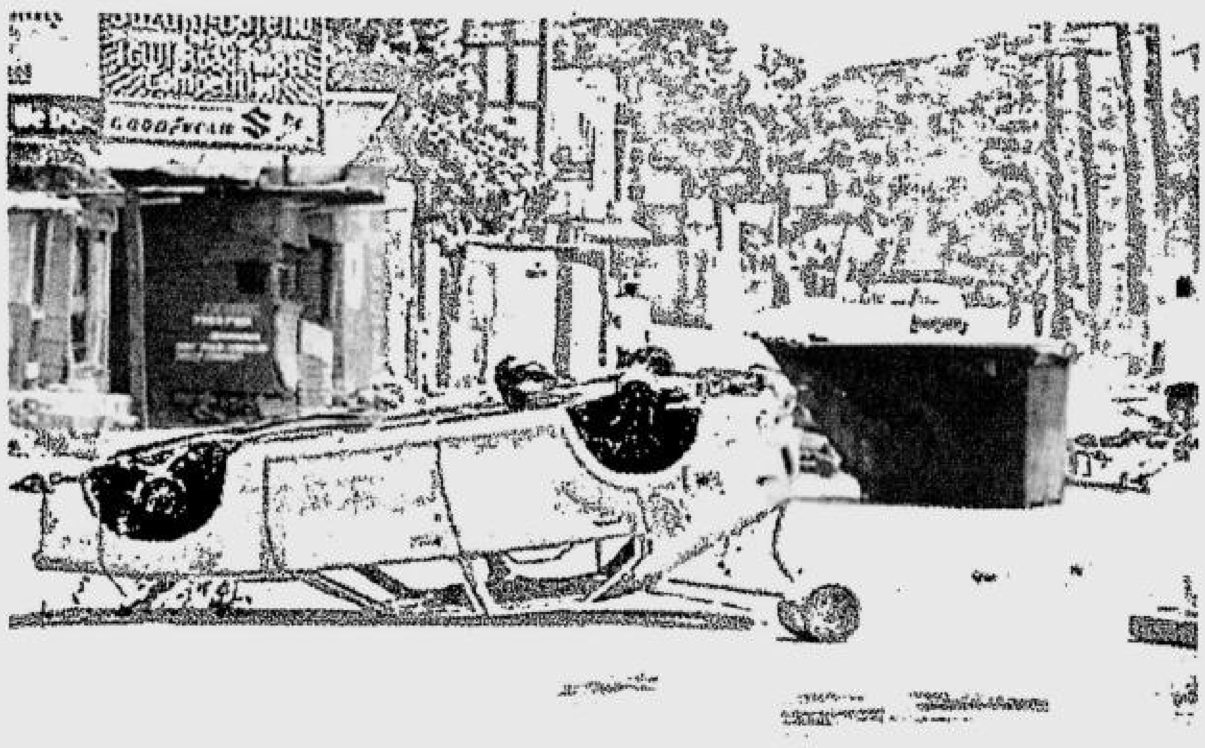
Levy, 24, of Modesto, California, was last seen April 30 when she canceled her membership at a Washington health club. Her internship with the federal Bureau of Prisons had just ended, and she was planning to return home to participate in graduation ceremonies at the University of Southern California.

Police searched her apartment and found nothing missing but her keys. Her bags were partially packed.

Last week, Levy's aunt said her niece told her she was having an affair with the 53-year-old Condit, who is married, and would often visit him at his apartment in Washington's Adams Morgan neighborhood.

During a third interview with Washington police on Friday, Condit acknowledged the affair, according to a source familiar with the investigation.

Condit hasn't spoken publicly about his relationship with Levy, but his office has denied an affair. In a statement, Condit has called Levy a "good friend." *AP*



JAMAICA's prime minister ordered the Army deployed across the island, trying to restore calm after three days of politically charged violence that has killed at least 20 people. AP

Jamaica violence raises questions about politicos' ties to drug gangs

KINGSTON, Jamaica—With sharpshooters stationed on rooftops, troops leveling guns from sandbagged windows and armored vehicles rumbling under the protection of a hovering helicopter gunship, Jamaica's opposition leader surveyed the scene.

The toll of days of gunbattles between police and his supporters was marked Tuesday by streets stained with blood, hulks of burnt-out vehicles, the heatbloated body of an elderly man shot in the back sprawled face down.

Jamaica's blood bank ran out of blood, health officials said, the main cemetery in Kingston was closed by the unrest, and the stench of rotting bodies wafted from a funeral home.

There were only pockets of sporadic fighting Tuesday, but hundreds of people who had locked themselves in for days erupted into the street. "Shower! Shower!" they yelled in praise of the notorious Shower Posse, a drug gang the FBI blames for 1,400 murders on the US East Coast at the height of the cocaine wars in the 1980s.

Jamaica's notoriously stiff Labor Party leader Edward Seaga responded through a bullhorn: police had killed the man over the weekend while they targeted communities loyal to his opposition party.

Jamaica's politicians created this fearsome gang culture in the 1970s, arming criminals to intimidate voters as the two main parties fought for supremacy.

Today, with the gangs financially independent because of the drug trade, many are asking if they can put the genie back into the bottle.

"The politicians say they do not support these people, but the links between politicians and organized crime are very much alive," said Monsignor Richard Albert, a Roman Catholic American priest who has lived here for more than 20 years.

"It's dangerous for the survival of a democracy," he said. "The power isn't the ballot box, it's the gun. That's the scary part."

Some ordinary people are just weary. "We're tired of the killing. We don't want them no more. We want them to leave," one man screamed into a Jamaica Television camera, blaming all sides. *AP*

School shut as haze clogs skies in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—One primary school on Kuala Lumpur's outskirts sent its students home yesterday and several others canceled outside sports, as health fears grew about smoke haze from fires in Malaysia and neighboring Indonesia.

The schools are in an area southwest of Malaysia's largest city where several fires have been smoldering in layers of peat for four days.

Smoke from the peat fires had added to haze from scores of fires on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and Borneo island, which has blanketed large areas of Malaysia for a week. Southern Thailand has also been affected and Singapore is watching for wind shifts, which could blow smoke its way.

In Kuala Lumpur, some street workers covered their noses and mouths with masks yesterday. Environmental groups said they had received complaints of eye and throat irritation problems in other areas, including the northwest tourist island of Penang.

Singapore's Meteorological Service, which monitors fires in the region by satellite, on Tuesday reported more than 150 "hotspots" in Sumatra and close to 80 in Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo.

Plantation owners in Indonesia sometimes use fire as a cheap means of clearing land, mainly during the midyear dry season.

The fires have raged out of control for weeks during unusually dry years such as 1997, when Singapore and parts of Malaysia and Indonesia were blanketed with thick, foul-smelling smoke that was blamed for numerous health problems.

The Malaysian government has refused to release detailed readings of the index it uses to measure air pollution. It says reporting bad air quality during the 1997 haze problem caused a drop in tourism.

The Sun newspaper reported yesterday that readings in five areas of Malaysia fell within the index's "unhealthy" zone. *AP*

Another embassy bomber gets life

NEW YORK—A jury on Tuesday spared the life of a terrorist in the deadly 1998 bombing of a US Embassy in Africa—opting instead for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

The same jury spared the life of another defendant last month.

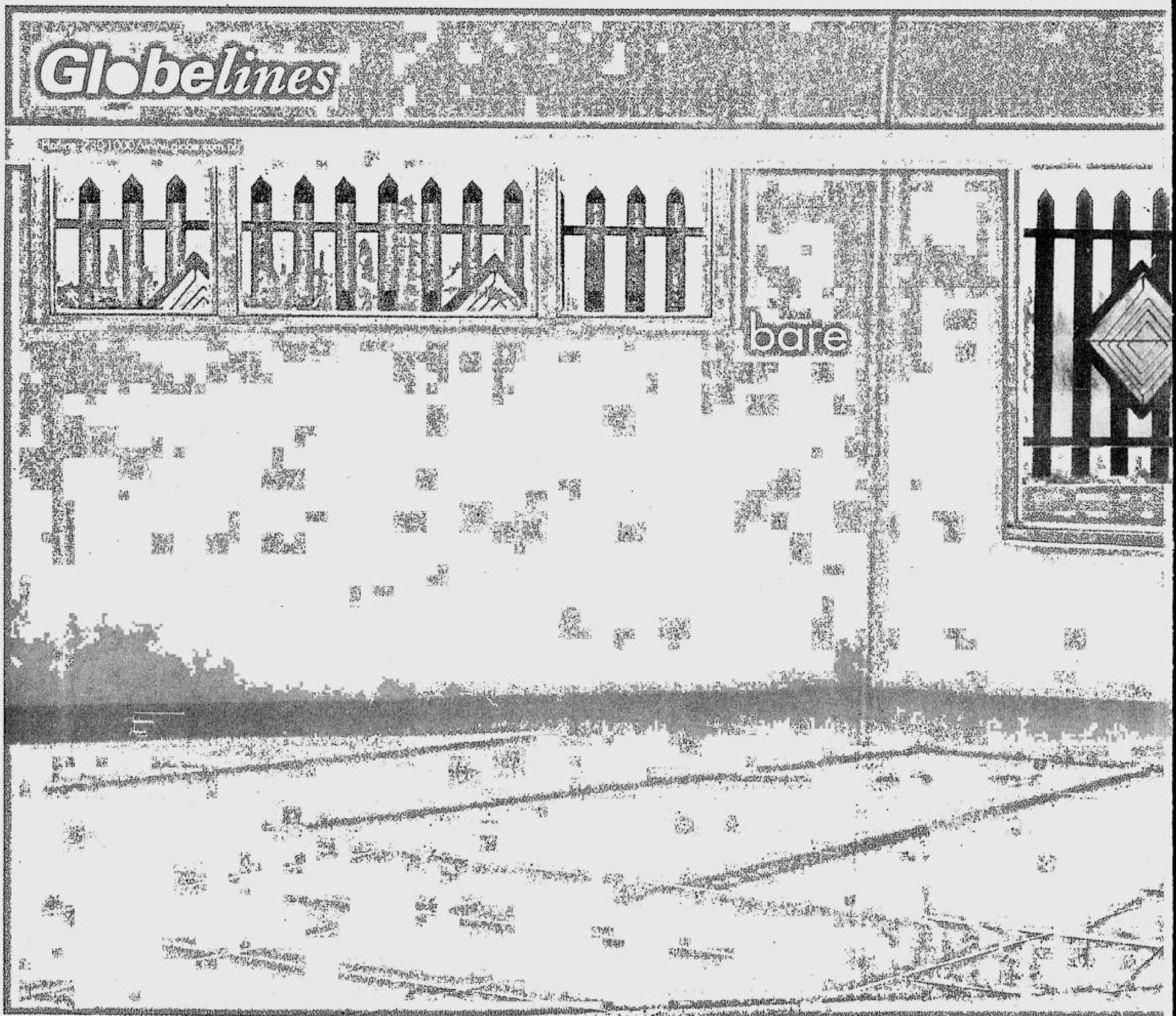
Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, 27, of Tanzania, was convicted of conspiracy in May for the 1998 bombing in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which killed 11 people. He was allegedly part of a terrorist plot ordered by exiled Saudi Osama bin Laden. A nearly simultaneous blast at the US Embassy in Kenya killed 213.

Jurors began deliberations in the penalty phase of Mohamed's trial Thursday, took off Friday and resumed work Monday. They said Tuesday that they could not agree on the death penalty for Mohamed.

Last month, the same jury could not agree on whether to impose the death penalty against another defendant, Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al-'Owhali of Saudi Arabia, for his role in the attack in Nairobi, Kenya. He too was sentenced to life in prison.

Tuesday's decision concluded a six-month prosecution resulting in convictions against four men involved in the bombings.

Mohamed had told FBI agents after his arrest that he had no regrets about the attack. *AP*



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HK legislature debates election of next leader

HONG KONG—Legislators gave preliminary approval yesterday to a bill that would let an 800-member committee choose Hong Kong's next leader, despite opposition figures saying the people should decide. The opposition also attacked a clause that would let Beijing fire the leader.

Lawmakers voted 36-16 in favor of the measure, with two abstentions inside a Legislative Council building that had been wrapped in a banner of prodemocracy petition signatures.

Critics say the bill would all but assure that Hong Kong's highly unpopular leader, Chief Executive Tung Cheehwa, will get a second term next year. Tung is a former shipping tycoon who has been in charge of Hong Kong ever since Britain returned its former colony to China four years ago.

"We're expressing our extreme anger and disappointment at the government's deliberate move to hurt the autonomy of Hong Kong," said Cheung Man-kwong of the Democratic Party.

Opposition politicians clamoring for the direct election of Hong Kong's next chief executive had more than 30,000 signatures from supporters—on a blue banner that stretched almost all the way around the domed building. Some protesters made their point by hanging up pieces of smelly durian fruit outside.

But they were being overwhelmed by the votes of big business interests and pro-Beijing forces.

"I think the name of the bill should be changed to 'the bill for Tung Cheehwa's second term,'" grumbled Martin Lee, chair of the Democratic Party.

The political opposition is outraged by a clause they say would permit the central government in Beijing to remove Hong Kong's political leader at will—which critics say could undermine the autonomy and Western-style freedoms Hong Kong is supposed to enjoy for at least the next 46 years.

Constitutional Affairs Secretary Michael Suen said those fears were misplaced, because Beijing would have to act under Hong Kong's constitution, known as the Basic Law.

"These worries over the autonomy of Hong Kong have no grounds," Suen told the lawmakers.

After giving the bill preliminary approval, lawmakers began arguing over the clause that would let Beijing remove the chief executive. One more vote is neccessary for formal passage of the bill.

The territory's biggest pro-Beijing party, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, also accused the accused the naysayers of exaggeration.

DAB lawmaker Ip Kwok-him said the opposition politicians were "deliberately twisting the facts."

"Some people look at things with their minds already made up," Ip said. "During 150 years of British colonial rule, there was never an election."

Earlier, the protesters brought out pieces of durian fruit, loved by some in Asia but reviled by many others for its strong odor.

A pro-Beijing figure had previously angered the pro-democracy camp by saying picking a political leader is like picking out a piece of durian—only experts can do it right. The opposition hung up pieces of durian to illustrate their view that Hong Kong people had the right—and the expertise—to choose durian, as well as their leader. ***AP***

Sri Lanka chief suspends parliament

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Attempting to avoid a political crisis, President Chandrika Kumaratunga suspended the federal parliament and ordered a national referendum to seek a mandate to govern the war-wracked country with a new Constitution.

The rare, but constitutionally valid step is seen as a political move by the president to avoid an embarrassing defeat later this month in parliament where her 9-month-old coalition has been reduced to a minority.

Given the hour of the announcement—midnight Tuesday—there were no opposition protests. But as dawn broke yesterday, Colombo residents reported heavier security on the streets.

In normal times, the city is guarded by police and army to tackle possible attacks by Tamil Tiger rebels fighting a protracted war to divide Sri Lanka on ethnic lines. Some residents waited for newspapers, the printing of which were delayed due to the late breaking news. Other residents were seen listening to state-run radio broadcasts to get more information.

A government statement said the president was suspending parliament for 60 days and using her executive powers to schedule a nationwide referendum on Aug. 20-21 to ask voters whether they need a new Constitution.

"Are you agreeable to the proposal that the country needs a Constitution which is a national requirement and a national prerequisite?" the statement said.

A "yes" majority vote would mean a victory for Kumaratunga who has been trying to amend the present Constitution to give greater autonomy to the country's provinces and thus meet one of the top demands of the country's 3.2 million minority Tamils for self-rule.

A new Constitution will be drafted if she gets the mandate in the referendum. If she does not get the approval, Kumaratunga will have the option of either facing a confidence vote in parliament after the 60 days of suspension, or wait until Oct. 10 to dissolve the legislature and order new elections. Kumaratunga has the power to dissolve the national assembly only after it completes one year.

The government accused the political opposition of taking "undue advantage" of the current political crisis. "This is a very serious situation that threatens to drag the country, people and the entire nation in general to the brink of disaster," it warned.

"The essential prerequisite today is a constitution that paves the way for ending the war and evolving a solution to the national problem which will enable all communities to live in peace, amity, brotherhood and equality," the government said.

Kumaratunga's earlier efforts to introduce a new constitution failed last August for want of a parliamentary majority.

The Constitution allows the president to call a referendum on matters of national importance but it cannot be used to change the present Constitution. ***AP***

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Former dictator charged

BUENOS AIRES—Authorities charged former Argentine dictator Jorge Videla on Tuesday in an alleged conspiracy hatched two decades ago by South American military leaders to capture leftist political opponents hiding in each other's nations.

Videla, who is already under house arrest on charges of kidnapping the children of mothers slain by the 1976-83 military regime, was the first to be charged in relation to "Plan Condor," an alleged scheme among right-wing dictators in six countries.

Judge Rodolfo Canicoba Corral charged Videla, 75, with being part of an "illegal organization." The judge froze $1 million of Videla's assets, and continued his house arrest.

Wearing a dark blue suit, Videla was in court for less than an hour for the reading of the indictment. He refused to answer the judge's questions, then was driven home.

Videla's lawyers argued that the alleged offenses were committed so long ago that the case was no longer valid. However, they neither confirmed nor denied the charges. Because Videla refused to speak in court, the judge gave him until Aug. 17 to respond in writing.

The 500-page indictment accuses Videla of "the forced disappearance of citizens of Argentine, Chilean, Uruguayan, Paraguayan, Bolivian and Brazilian origin, as part of the . . . operation of the criminal organization known as Plan Condor." ***AP***

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

English, math retraining

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Teachers in more than 500 public elementary schools in Bulacan will be retrained in English and mathematics. Textbooks and teaching materials on the two subjects will be reviewed while parents will be tapped to help their children study. The Ford Foundation granted the Bulacan government $300,000 for the English and Mathematics Proficiency Program.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cop removed

ANGELES CITY—A police official was relieved while three others were placed under technical arrest after two prisoners in a police sub-station here were killed in a fire on July 1. Relieved was Senior Insp. Hermes Aquino, chief of the Police Kababayan Center (PKC) 12 here, while his men SP01 Arthur Petil, PO3 Benjamin Quinsay and PO2 Antonio Silos were placed under technical arrest. They were on duty when the fire broke out at 2 a.m. of July 1 at the San Nicolas public market. The police sub-station was located on the market building's second floor.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fire victims get help

ILOILO CITY—The families of the two victims in the hour-long fire at the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) will receive financial assistance from the hospital. Dr. Jose Mari Fermin said P10,000 will be given to the families of Raymundo Camacho and Ramon Ybiernas to help defray their burial expenses. Ybiernas' widow, Enriquieta, WVMC's former chief of clinic, will be given free treatment at the hospital. Camacho, 34, and Ybiernas, 60, died shortly after a fire of still unknown origin broke out at the hospital about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday. Fire Officer II Liden Jaena said the fire started at the medical records room on the ground floor.

Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau

'Bejo' foe posts bail

TACLOBAN CITY—Victor Domingo, presidential assistant for Eastern Visayas, posted bail of P10,000 on July 6 upon learning that an arrest warrant would be issued against him in connection with the libel case filed against him by Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez. Domingo is facing libel charges before Judge Rogelio Sescon of the Regional Trial Court Branch 22 for allegedly maligning Mayor Romualdez's reputation during a rally on Sept. 15, 2000.

Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Acquitted of murder

TAGBILARAN CITY—Former Vice Mayor Jaime Decasa of Batuan town was cleared of murder charges in connection with an election eve killing in 1998. Aside from Decasa, Judge Pablo Magdoza of the Regional Trial Court also acquitted PO2 Ricky Morallo, SPO3 Leopoldo Sarmiento, SPO1 Roberto Clamonte, PO2 Roy Tumalon and PO1 Isabelo Tubo. Decasa's two co-accused, Vicente Dano Jr. and PO2 Carlito Bunado, were each meted 20 years in jail after the court found them guilty of killing Ernesto Hingpit in Barangay Upper Cabacnitan, Batuan on May 10, 1998. The court's decision came two years after Decasa defected to the National Democratic Front, claiming he had "lost faith" in the judicial system.

Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

New Davao bishop

DAVAO CITY—Archbishop Antonio Franco, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines will ordain today Msgr. Guillermo "Jimmy" Afable as the city's new auxiliary bishop. Eighteen bishops from different archdioceses in the country are expected to be at the ceremony at the San Pedro Cathedral. Afable was ordained on April 24, 1976. He finished his primary and secondary studies at the Ateneo de Davao and entered the St. Francis Xavier Regional Seminary where he obtained his philosophy and theology degrees. He left for Rome in 1980 to pursue post-graduate studies in Canon Law and Liturgy.

Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Batanes group of islands including Calayan Islands will experience rains and gusty winds and its coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon will be cloudy with occasional rains, while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 31° Lo 25°	Baguio HI 23° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 32° Lo 24°	Laoag HI 31° Lo 24°
Clark Zone HI 30° Lo 24°	Tagaytay HI 29° Lo 20°	Legazpi HI 32° Lo 24°	Calapan HI 31° Lo 23°
Bacolod HI 31° Lo 25°	Roxas HI 33° Lo 24°	Cebu HI 31° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 24°	Zamboanga HI 33° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro HI 32° Lo 23°	Davao HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/12/01

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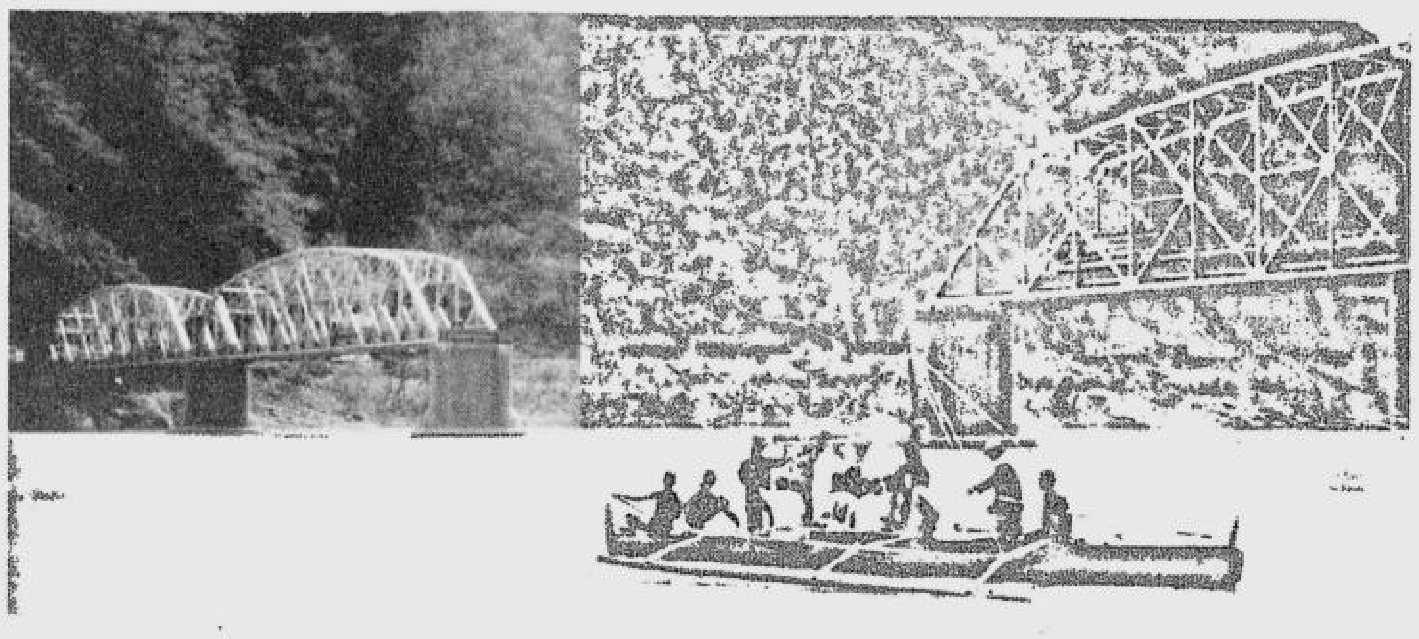
Typhoon damage in Ilocos to take 8 months to repair



A SPAN of the Quirino Bridge in Ilocos Sur was washed away by floods from typhoon Feria, creating a major infrastructure headache for the province.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

VIGAN CITY—Normal land travel to Ilocos Sur's northern towns and to Ilocos Norte will resume only in February 2002 as it will take more than eight months to repair the Quirino Bridge that was destroyed by typhoon "Feria."

Engineer Nicolas de la Cruz, Department of Public Works and Highways assistant regional director, said the bridge's 75-meter center span that was swept away by rampaging floodwaters would be replaced by a P24-million bailey bridge.

He said Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong informed the Ilocos Sur second engineering district Tuesday that his office would release money to repair the Quirino Bridge in Santa town.

"In the meantime, a temporary foot suspension bridge connecting the remaining spans of Quirino Bridge is being constructed and is expected to open to traffic in three weeks," he said.

On Tuesday, the Ilocos Sur provincial board approved a resolution declaring Ilocos Sur under a state of calamity because of the damage caused by Feria last week.

"Overall damage may reach P1 billion," Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano told the INQUIRER.

Ilocos Sur received a P1-million aid from the Office of Civil Defense. The families of fatalities in the province would be given a P10,000 cash assistance each.

Feria's strong rains and wind last week killed at least 34 people in Ilocos Sur.

De la Cruz said a ferryboat has been operating in the Abra River to transport light vehicles to Bantay town.

Workers are now clearing an old road in Santa town going down the riverbank, which will be used as a berthing area.

The historic bridge, named after former President Elpidio Quirino, is one of six bridges in Northern Luzon washed out by the typhoon.

Reports said commuters are being ferried across the swollen Abra River either by a motor boat, a rubber boat or bamboo rafts.

Operators of bancas fashioned as mini-barges and which could accommodate 100 to 150 people a trip, collect P10 each from passengers for a one-way trip.

At least two mini-barges run on a 24-hour basis and operators are earning an estimated P75,000 daily on peak days.

A trip on the rubber boat, however, is free as it is owned by the Ilocos Sur provincial government.

A helicopter owned by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson is also used to transport officials and other personalities who have appointments in the northern towns of Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.

Vigan City can be reached by air through the Laoag International Airport in Laoag City. Metro Manila motorists, on the other hand, can reach the northernmost parts of Ilocos through the Cagayan Valley Road.

In Baguio City, respiratory diseases have affected residents living in evacuation centers in the city.

Dr. Florence Reyes, city health officer, said most of those suffering from cough and cold, pneumonia and diarrhea are children 15 years old and below.

On Tuesday, at least 80 families or 327 people displaced by severe flooding in Baguio were in three evacuation centers in the city.

"Human waste disposal has been a problem of the evacuees since Thursday but Mayor Bernardo Vergara has sent four portable toilets for their use," she said.

Reyes said some evacuees went home on Monday to clean up their houses.

But she encouraged the affected residents to stay in evacuation centers for a few days more. "It is easier for us to monitor their health conditions if they are in the evacuation centers," she said.

Cases of dengue and intestinal ailments might increase if people insist on staying in their houses that are still flooded and muddy, Reyes said.

The city government on Monday started releasing P2,500 each for families whose houses were destroyed by the typhoon and P1,500 for those whose houses were damaged.

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has also started releasing P5,000 for families of fatalities in the city and P2,000 for each injured resident.

At least 35 people were killed by Feria in Baguio City while 131 others suffered from typhoon-related injuries. *Peter La. Julian, Leoncio Balbin Jr. and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cebu ban on 2 media firms stays

By R. C. Tecson
PDI Visayas Bureau

OSMEÑA

CEBU CITY—Mayor Tomas Osmeña has stood firm in his decision to ban reporters from the Sun*Star Cebu and radio station dyHP from his regular press conferences despite the appeal of the local Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).

"I am just exercising my right as a person and as an individual. It is my privilege and I will reserve that," Osmeña told local KBP officials during a dialogue Tuesday.

The presence of lawyer Cynthia Barte, KBP president and dyHP station manager, failed to convince Osmeña to change his mind.

He just shrugged off her explanation that the radio station was never used during the elections either to discredit him or promote the candidacy of her husband who was running for city councilor under the local party of Osmeña's archrival, former Mayor Alvin Garcia.

Although the ban stays, the KBP officials are partly relieved by the assurance of Osmeña that he would not ban other media outlets that are critical of his administration provided they had no political agenda.

"Criticism of the mayor sells news. It might even make me become a better mayor because of that," he said.

The mayor reiterated that the ban was meant to make a "political statement" that he did not trust the two media outlets.

He also asked Cebuanos not to misconstrue the ban as depriving them of transparency, which he promised to observe during his administration.

Osmeña said he believed that Sun*Star Cebu and dyHP were used by Garcia in the last elections.

Garcia is one of the owners of Sun*Star Cebu. He ran for a third term on May 14 election but Osmeña defeated him in what was dubbed as Cebu's closest mayoral race in recent years.

Barte's husband, Venustiano, was a candidate for councilor under Garcia's party, Kugi Uswag Sugbo (Kusog).

Sun*Star Cebu ran an editorial last week opposing the ban "because it is illegal and violates the government's policy of transparency."

The Sun*Star editorial said Osmeña's decision to ban its reporters was not about the paper's performance, or about the mayor's fear of being misreported by the paper.

"It is personal vendetta, plain and unadulterated," it said.

During the dialogue, Osmeña told Barte that the ban would be lifted only if she can assure him that her husband will never run for public office or become part of Garcia's political machinery.

Barte's failure to give a categorical answer only firmed up Osmeña's resolve not to lift the ban.

"I wish he would because I don't want him to get involved in politics. But I am not the type of person who will force something on somebody," an emotional Barte told Osmeña.

But Osmeña said he believed that Barte manipulated the employees of dyHP to favor her husband's political agenda.

He recalled that during the campaign period, he was interviewed for an hour over dyHP. After his interview, Osmeña said Garcia immediately went on air to refute his statements.

OFWs win rare victory against illegal recruiter

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) has ordered a recruitment agency to pay some P10.3 million in damages and reimbursement of recruitment fees to 89 persons including the family of a domestic helper who died in Singapore last year.

In a May 28 decision, NLRC arbiter Cesar Sedino wrote that Easy Lines Manpower Corp., through its general manager Elizabeth Sumugat, office manager Cyrus Gimotea and their staff, was "engaged in wide-scale illegal recruitment."

Easy Lines and its foreign principal Arrow Placement Agency had been accepting applications and charging recruitment fees without accredited employers and job orders from Singapore and Dubai.

Sumugat and Gimotea are now detained at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology prison in Barangay Ungka, Jaro, pending resolution of the charges filed against them before the Regional Trial Court here.

But their lawyer, Romeo Gerochi, said his clients would ask the NLRC to reconsider its decision because 90 percent of the 89 complainants has already signed affidavits of desistance.

He said it was useless for the NLRC to compel Easy Lines to pay the 89 complainants because the agency has already closed down and declared bankruptcy.

The NLRC ordered Easy Lines to pay P1.5 million in damages to the family of Cheryl Gallaza, a 19-year old domestic helper who died in Singapore on July 27 last year. She was found hanging in her employer's residence with a bed sheet tied around her neck 27 days after she arrived in Singapore.

Easy Lines was also told to pay P862,000 to Llanie Serra, a domestic helper who suffered a nervous breakdown after her Singaporean employer treated her "like a slave and a beggar."

When she lost her mind in Singapore, Serra was sent back on July 24, 2000 to Manila where she hid for some time for fear of her life.

The NLRC also directed Easy Lines to pay P158,000 and $390 Singapore dollars to Evelyn Trebeta, representing moral and exemplary damages and her unpaid salary from July 1 to 19, 2001.

Trebeta ran off from her Singaporean employers, a couple who hired her as a babysitter but made her do housework including giving them and their mother massage.

Filipino slain by Malaysia cops coming home

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A Palawan resident who was reportedly killed in jail by seven Malaysian police officers a month ago will be brought home this Saturday.

The body of Virgilio Arque, 47, widower and a native of Barangay Buliluyan, Bataraza, Palawan, will arrive in Manila from Kota Kinabalu at 2:30 p.m. on board a Malaysian Airline plane, according to his sister Elsa Arque Magtanong.

Magtanong said some friends relayed to her that Arque's body was severely beaten and his skull broken.

His tormentors allegedly used a wooden club to beat him to death on June 4.

Until now, the victim's family has not yet been informed of the results of an investigation conducted by Malaysian authorities.

Magtanong said it was only now that Malaysian authorities allowed Arque's body to be transported because of the investigation.

The body was frozen for a month.

Arque came to Malaysia seven years ago through Bataraza in southern Palawan. When the Malaysian police found he was an illegal migrant, they detained him in Roma Mirah, Mangatar, Kota Kinabalu for three months.

Matanong's brother, Homer, 26, was also in Malaysia when Virgilio was killed.

Homer came home to Palawan 10 days ago for fear that authorities might run after him because he was also staying there illegally.

He said he saw the body of his brother before going home.

"I introduced myself as a friend of my brother. I saw his body black and blue. His eyes were shut with blackeyes," Homer said in Filipino.

Virgilio had gone to Malaysia months earlier than Homer and said his brother took odd jobs and became a construction worker just like him.

Homer said it was easy to go to Malaysia through fishing vessels transporting live fish from Palawan to Kudat province three times a week.

"There are no opportunities in Bataraza so we were forced to go to Malaysia even if it was dangerous," Homer said.

There, he earned 400 ringgits daily, or P400. Their family only relies on fishing but fish now has become scarce due to rampant illegal fishing and the influx of big fishing boats.

Berroya assignment to CL fuels 'jueteng' fears

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The assignment of Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya as Central Luzon police chief can open the doors for the return of suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda in the "jueteng" racket, INQUIRER sources here warned.

"Why him (Berroya) of all people when everybody knows, including those in the PNP top brass, that he used to have strong links with Bong," one of the police sources said.

The sources said President Macapagal-Arroyo must rethink the appointment of the 54-year-old former PNP intelligence chief to the Central Luzon post in the wake of ousted President Joseph Estrada's links to jueteng.

Berroya is set to replace this week Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., who was assigned to the Bicol police command.

Sources said Berroya's new appointment would also fuel speculations of the President's ties with Pineda.

Pineda's base is Lubao, the hometown of President Diosdado Macapagal, the President's late father.

Berroya's supposed connections with Pineda began in 1985 when Berroya, then a lieutenant colonel, served as the provincial commander of the Constabulary in Pampanga until 1987.

Pineda at that time operated *monte*, a card game, in San Juan, Rizal, and Quezon City for a Pampanga congressman. He also operated *monte* in Nueva Ecija for a political family there.

Influential officials in the Aquino administration aided Pineda in expanding jueteng operations in Central, Southern and Northern Luzon and Iloilo.

During the Ramos administration, other jueteng operators ate into the turfs of Pineda in Bulacan, Ilocos, Laguna and Bicol.

Eventually, the Senate in 1995 put Pineda under investigation. In 1998, he was acquitted of charges of corruption of public officials, a bailable offense punishable by up to eight years in prison.

"Juetengate" whistleblower former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said Pineda found a patron in Estrada.

Estrada's downfall and Ms Macapagal's rise to the presidency forced Pineda to abandon the business, a top police official and a Pineda insider told the INQUIRER in April.

It was not known if Pineda's sudden retreat from the lucrative game was his concession to charges planned against him by the Macapagal administration.

As Pineda's jueteng business took a turbulent ride, Berroya's career took a downturn, seeing him jailed and later reassigned to Mindanao during the term of his nemesis, former PNP chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"If the President is really serious at eradicating jueteng, Berroya is not her man here," another source said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cancel Jimenez bail, DOJ asks high court

(From page A1)

a reasonable period to file his comment.

Nine months later, the high court reversed its decision, saying Jimenez was actually bereft of the right to notice and hearing during the evaluation stage of his extradition process.

Seeing no legal obstacles, the DOJ through Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez filed a petition for Jimenez's extradition with the Manila RTC on May 18, 2001.

Jimenez countered with a motion for a bail hearing before a warrant could be issued for his arrest. The motion landed in the sala of Judge Purganan.

On July 4, Purganan approved a P1-million cash bond for Jimenez and gave him provisional liberty.

"The risk that Jimenez will flee is high, and no special circumstance exists that will engender a well-founded belief that he will not flee," the DOJ said in its petition.

'It also warned that Jimenez's recent victory in the congressional election "does not mean he will not leave the country, (as) he can use his position to facilitate his flight to another country with which the US has no extradition treaty."

Jimenez is now a congressman of Manila.

The DOJ added that Purganan acted with grave abuse of discretion when he allowed a potential extraditee to be heard first in court before issuing an arrest warrant.

"Giving Jimenez, who has fled the US jurisdiction, advanced notice of the application for the issuance of an arrest warrant and a hearing thereon is to afford him all the opportunity to flee once more and defeat extradition," the DOJ said.

Unless the Supreme Court corrects Purganan's decision, "giving advanced notice also sets a dangerous precedent in that an extraditee, who is a terrorist, a mass murderer, or a war criminal, will not be prevented from invoking such procedure in future extradition proceedings," the DOJ said.

The justice department said it was wrong for Purganan to allow Jimenez's provisional liberty in the first place because an extradition court "has no power to authorize bail in the absence of any law providing for such power."

MARK JIMENEZ

Besides, extradition proceedings are not included among situations covered by the "right to bail" clause in the Constitution, according to the DOJ.

Even on the assumption that bail is allowed in bail proceedings or proceedings leading to extradition, it is still not a matter of right for the extraditee, the justice department said.

Rather, the decision depends on the discretion of the judge because an extraditee should still be required to show the existence of special circumstances allowing him to post bail, the DOJ said.

In the case of Purganan, the DOJ noted that the judge received no evidence of special circumstances, which may justify Jimenez's release on bail.

Ransom . . .

(From page A1)

tortion and ransom insurance plan available now."

"We are like a big brother who is ready to help," said Colin Torres, branch manager of Philam Insurance, an affiliate of the giant American International Group.

"There is a need for this product because kidnapping is financially and emotionally draining for the victims and their families," he said.

According to Torres, the plan carries a premium of 5 percent per P1 million in insurance (or P50,000 per annum), and covers ransom money for kidnapping as well as hijacking, wrongful detention, extortion and death or dismemberment.

Covered as well are the salaries for negotiators and the costs of hiring security specialists to handle the payment of ransom; forensic services; legal or medical expenses; and the costs of travel and accommodations and psychological counseling for released victims and their families.

The insurance plan is being offered nationwide with strict confidentiality guaranteed, Torres said. There is no limit to the amount the client wants as insurance.

"The primary goal of this product is to bring back the kidnap victim alive by careful dialogue. Life is so precious," he said.

Current demand

"This product is also available in other countries, and we feel there is already a demand here in our country," Torres said.

Local businessman Eduardo Pelaez, a son of former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, professed "mixed feelings" on the issue but said: "It's a shock but this is reality. Kidnapping is happening everywhere."

Pelaez, whose elder brother Enrique was kidnapped last year, admitted that the insurance policy offered beleaguered businessmen "a good alternative."

"You can put the risk of being kidnapped as operating expense to pay the ransom," he said. "That way, it will not affect your financial resources or your business."

He agreed that it was financially draining for kidnap victims to meet the ransom demand.

On the other hand, Lino Chan, vice president of the Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the insurance policy would precisely trigger a rash of kidnappings.

He warned that unscrupulous businessmen could stage their own kidnapping to be able to get the insurance money.

But Torres said his firm was also working with Kroll Associates, an elite US security firm composed of former members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He said the US security consultants would work in tandem with the Philippine National Police to weed out the "kidnap me" cases.

Pinoy family . . .

(From page A1)

grated from Manila in the 1990s. They were described as quiet, well-liked and devout Catholics.

Ted Gonzales had a legal practice in Blacktown.

The family built their home about a year ago. Their Nissan four-wheel drive, Celica and hatchback sedan, all with personalized license plates, were still parked in the garage yesterday morning.

The family's Chihuahua dog was taken by the council ranger.

Lowiva Gonzales' mother reportedly lived in the house opposite the victims'.

"Any murder is a tragedy, but in this case three members of a family are dead. I consider it an outrage," said Supt. Mick Plotecki.

The Australian quoted the victims' neighbor, Wendel Judd, as quiet and unassuming.

"We didn't know them very well, we had met them in passing," he said.

"They'd been here about a year. It's terrible. We didn't know anything about their personal life really, we just said 'hello.' I think they were pretty happy just to be in the area," he said.

Judd said he was outside tinkering with his car Tuesday night but did not see or hear anything suspicious.

The Philippine consulate in Sydney is coordinating with the police in its investigation. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

It's official: Haydee to take over PCGG

(From page A1)

abolition of the agency.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Yorac, the feisty and fearless ex-chair of the Commission on Elections, had finally agreed to assume the post and would take her oath soon before President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Her appointment is expected to boost the government's efforts to recover the alleged hidden wealth of the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, amid confirmed reports that Marcos heiress Irene Araneta tried but failed to transfer Swiss deposits into a German account in February.

Tiglao said two other new commissioners have been named to the agency: Ruben Carranza Jr. and Victoria Avena, both law professors at the University of the Philippines.

"The three agreed among themselves to set a two-year limit to settle the Marcos issue . . . (since) this has been going on for more than a decade. They think if the PCGG really focuses on the problems, these can be solved," Tiglao said of the Marcos wealth case.

"They also plan to lobby for an amendment to the law to allow the release of $150-million in escrow funds to the human rights victims," he said.

He was referring to nearly 10,000 plaintiffs who won a $2-billion judgment in a class suit against the Marcoses in the United States but who have yet to receive a centavo from the family.

The Marcoses and a faction of the victims struck a $150-million settlement deal, which was never enforced because the Marcoses wanted to pay the plaintiffs from frozen Swiss deposits held in an escrow account.

But under the law, all recovered funds found to be ill-gotten in nature must be used for the government's agrarian reform program.

The PCGG has been roundly criticized by militant groups for failing to find the alleged Marcos billions believed to be stashed in foreign banks and underground vaults after more than 10 years.

Carranza was an undersecretary of defense under the Estrada administration who resigned when the Juetengate scandal broke last year.

Yorac, a lawyer, also served as chair of the National Unification Commission under the Ramos administration and once ran for a Senate seat.

A government panel sent to Switzerland and Germany to consult with authorities there on Araneta's alleged attempt to launder funds returned to Manila recently with documents from a German investigation confirming that Marcos' youngest daughter had tried to transfer funds from Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) to Deutsche Bank.

The German investigators, however, had to wrap up their probe since no money was ever transferred into the Deutsche Bank account and there was no evidence of actual money laundering.

The Swiss account allegedly once contained as much as $13.2 billion, a claim that UBS and the Marcoses have consistently denied.

Justice officials here have said that they were waiting for Yorac to assume the chairmanship of the PCGG before deciding what step to take next in the long but tantalizing saga of the fabled Marcos billions.

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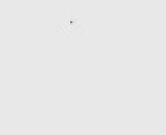

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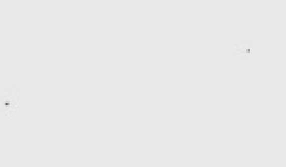

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Power-sharing in Senate urged

(From page A1)

whatever legislation is needed should be passed. Let's stop too much politics," he further said.

Drilon and Sen. Blas Ople entered into a power-sharing setup in 1999, agreeing to split the remaining two-year term of the Senate president.

Guingona said he wanted to prevent a scenario where PPC senators and administration-allied senators will lend their support to the opposition candidate.

"As Lakas president I would want to have it settled as smoothly as possible. And if possible there should be no cross-over (of administration senators going to the opposition). Our PPC senators have just been elected. They should stick together," said Guingona.

Drilon lunch at Palace

But Drilon may have an edge over Cayetano. The INQUIRER learned from Palace sources that President Macapagal-Arroyo lunched with Drilon and Presidential Legislative Liaison Gabriel Claudio last Sunday after which she had reportedly "floated" her preference for Drilon to head the Senate.

Asked whether President Macapagal had given him and Cayetano a deadline to resolve the ticklish issue, Drilon replied, "July 23 is a natural deadline." That date is the opening of the 12th Congress.

"Before next week, that issue should be resolved, otherwise the President will have to intervene insofar as the PPC and Lakas are concerned," Flavier said.

Flavier quickly added that the President would do so as titular head of the PPC and Lakas-NUCD. He said she was "not meddling" in the affairs of the Senate, but is simply exercising her "influence" over the administration party.

"It is not intervention because she is keeping her hands off the opposition," he said.

But the lone opposition candidate for the Senate presidency, Sen. Edgardo Angara, who's president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilpino (LDP), countered that, "You cannot separate her personality as party leader and President."

What happens to Joker?

Asked whether the meeting between Drilon and Cayetano meant that a third PPC candidate—Sen. Joker Arroyo—had already bowed out of the race, Flavier answered in the negative.

According to him, there are now three blocs in the administration coalition: Five Lakas senators support Cayetano; four senators for Drilon and the four new senators for Arroyo.

Cayetano is reportedly backed by Lakas Senators Flavier, Robert Barbers and Loren Legarda-Leviste. The new PPC senators aside from Arroyo are Senators Ralph Recto, Francis Pangilinan and Manuel Villar.

It was not clear which senators are backing Drilon as he's right now without a political party since he bolted the Laban ng Mamamayang Pilipino (LAMP) before the impeachment trial of the party's ousted leader, Joseph Estrada. Drilon ran for reelection under the PPC banner. All his party mates are with the opposition in the Senate.

Don't count out Pimentel

But don't count out the sitting Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. In a news briefing yesterday, he said the infighting within the PPC only ensured his strong grip on the Senate presidency.

Asked to describe the Senate race, Pimentel replied: "It is lopsided in my favor."

He is confident that neither the PPC candidate, whoever he is, nor the lone opposition candidate for the top Senate post, Sen. Edgardo Angara, doesn't stand a chance of beating him.

"They will have a hard time because I am still around," Pimentel told Senate reporters.

Pimentel explained the next president needed 13 votes, adding he did not see anyone having that number. Those claiming to have it must review their arithmetic. "They are all guilty of fuzzy math," he said.

Opposition has numbers?

On the other side, Angara claimed that the opposition was the "biggest force" in the Senate, giving them the "highest number" of support.

Although he and his colleagues were "solid," he said they were willing to team up with other parties.

"The dynamics in the Senate is that party affiliation is not as important as closeness among individual senators and unity of individual blocs based on common interests," he said over radio dzBB.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon of the LDP was as enthused as Angara, saying the opposition now has 11 votes in in favor and is expecting to get more.

Angara chided Ms Macapagal for allegedly "undermining the independence" of the Senate with her support of Drilon.

No 'powerful endorsement'

Swamped with protests from senators, both the PPC, the pro-administration coalition and the opposition, Malacañang yesterday reiterated that the President had not given her "powerful endorsement" to Drilon.

"The President recognizes that the choice of the Senate president belongs to the senators and not to her," Claudio yesterday said.

Claudio made the statement even members of the PPC were reportedly upset about the INQUIRER report on the President's expressed preference for Drilon.

"No, there was no such endorsement given by the President during that meeting," Claudio said.

But Claudio was referring to a July 1 meeting the President had with the aspirants from the PPC—Drilon, Cayetano, Arroyo and Pimentel, who was represented by his daughter Gwen as he was still then abroad.

Claudio said there was no other meeting with the senators that took place after that.but failed to mention the one-on-one Sunday lunch of the President with Drilon where he was also present.

Claudio said he was present during the July 1 meeting but stressed there was no endorsement given to Drilon or to anyone.

"The senators were the ones doing the talking," Claudio said of the meeting. He said the topic of the discussion was "keeping the coalition together."

"To meddle in the internal affairs of the Senate is the last thing the President wants to do. As a former member of the Senate herself, she values the independence of the Senate," Claudio said.

Claudio said the "only meddling" the President could be accused of making was to "encourage the process of dialogue and consensus-building" among the senators.

Claudio said the President was confident that the senators could resolve the leadership contest by themselves.

For the second straight day, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao also denied the Drilon endorsement.

"I'm sure these senators are also asking her. Probably some of them are seeking her endorsement which is really a powerful endorsement. But still the President would like to emphasize that she is leaving the matter of the Senate presidency to our senators," Tiglao said in a radio interview.

Tiglao said some senators might have misinterpreted the President's discussions about her legislative agenda as meddling in the Senate affairs.

"There might have been some confusion because what the President did for the past weeks was to talk with winners in the Senate and House of Representatives because she wants to ensure the passage of her economic legislative agenda," he said.

He said that while the executive and legislative departments were co-equal branches, close cooperation between them was important.

"So what the President does is she is talking to the senators which was probably misinterpreted as dictating on the Senate," Tiglao said.

Flavier confirmed reports that the President met with senators from the ruling party on July 1 but also denied that Drilon is the President's choice.

Guingona yesterday denied that he met with administration senators last night to settle the Senate presidency dispute.

"No, there's been no agreement to meet with them," he said.

Dark horse

Flavier clarified that he himself has no interest in joining the Senate race, but is open to such a possibility in his third and last term as senator in year 2007.

Flavier's name has been raised as a "dark horse" in the event that the Senate leadership remains problematical to the administration.

Flavier said this was giving "nightmares" to the other aspirants.

He said many people had been going to him, including Lakas chair and Rep. Jose de Venecia.

Big protests loom vs GMA

(From page A1)

three nominees of party-list election topnotcher Bayan Muna.

"Workers need a wage increase very badly. We have long been living under terrible conditions but the government doesn't seem to care," he said.

Militant farmers, fishermen, workers, students and church people in Southern Tagalog are joining the mass action.

"We will gather at the plaza of the House of Representatives in time for its 12th Congress to present our agenda for genuine reforms," said Orly Marcellana, secretary general of the Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid ng Timog Katagalugan.

The Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, a militant labor federation, has challenged Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to join the workers' struggle for a wage increase.

"There can be no doubt that the Catholic Church, particularly Cardinal Sin, commands influence over Malacañang. The workers now appeal to His Eminence to advise the President to support the wage increase," BMP national president Victor Briz said.

Briz said that if the bishops discerned tithing as untimely because of rising prices and worsening poverty, "it would be appropriate for His Eminence to declare an across-the-board wage hike as reasonable and just."

Briz noted that Sin had sought to make amends with the poor after Edsa III, the protests staged by the supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada that culminated in the storming of Malacañang on May 1.

"But deeds are, truly, stronger than words and our miserably paid workers would be grateful if His Eminence champions the workers' demand for a wage hike," the BMP official said.

The labor leader also called on other religious groups for support.

"We are also calling on support from religious groups such as the Iglesia ni Cristo and the El Shaddai, whose followers and members are mainly from the working class," Briz said.

The influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and the United Methodist Church had earlier thrown their support behind calls for a wage increase.

Protestants

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), the largest federation of mainline Protestant churches, yesterday said it was supporting the CBCP position on the wage increase.

"In these times of economic hardships brought about by the skyrocketing prices of basic commodities, it is but just that workers get their due," NCCP chair Rev. Tomas Millamena and general secretary Sharon Rose Duremdes said in a statement.

The regional wage board last increased the minimum wage for workers in Metro Manila by P26.50 to P250 last November. The amount is much lower than the P509 daily income, or P15,269 monthly, needed to support a family of six beyond subsistence level.

"The Holy Book admonishes us not to take advantage of a hired man who is poor and needy and to pay him his wages each day because he is poor and counting on it," the NCCP officials said.

The NCCP commended Sen. Juan Flavier for filing a bill seeking a legislated P125 wage increase.

"We urge him to consistently see this piece of legislation to its logical conclusion," Millamena and Duremdes said.

They reminded Ms Macapagal that the workers' demand for just wages was one of the reasons that propelled them to actively participate in Edsa People Power II that toppled Estrada.

"Close to half a year into her term, the workers continue to experience the very same exploitative conditions under the Estrada administration. The people have begun to ask if any profound changes have indeed taken place," the NCCP officials said.

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) are against the wage increase, saying that it will force small businesses to close shop.

Sammy Malunes, KMU spokesperson, described Ecop and PCCI as "heartless misers" that refuse to support any wage increase "in the name of greed."

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the workers had the right to ask for an increase, but "this is just not the right time for it."

"Looking at the whole economy now, I believe the wage increase should be deferred," Roxas said.

Toeing the line of the PCCI, Roxas said many manufacturing plants would close down if workers insisted on a wage hike at this time.

"This will be a disadvantage to the country. Investors forced to close up shop here will set up their businesses in other Asian countries," he said.

Beltran

Beltran, through Bayan Muna, is set to refile a bill seeking the across-the-board increase in the 12th Congress.

The bill was originally authored in the 11th Congress by then Representatives Sergio Apostol of Leyte, Oscar Rodriguez of Pampanga, Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur, Orlando Fua of Siquijor, and party-list Representatives Renato Magtubo and Melvyn Eballe.

Aurelio Bosque, KMU spokesperson in Panay, said protest actions, including work stoppages, might erupt if legislators failed to act on separate bills in the Senate and the House of Representatives calling for a P125 across-the-board wage increase.

Three Negros Occidental-based labor groups allied with the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines had filed a petition for a 50 across-the-board daily wage increase last month.

"At most, we will only get crumbs from the regional wage boards," Bosque said.

Since its creation in 1989, the regional wage board in Western Visayas has issued 12 wage orders raising the daily wage rates in the region from P89 to P170.

The last order to raise wages was on Nov. 16, 2000.

Under the Wage Regionalization Act, no wage order can be issued within a year after the last wage order.

"Unless there are contravening events like abnormal rise in the price of basic commodities and oil price increases, the board cannot issue another wage order until one year after the latest wage order took effect," said Calixto Valaquio, secretary of the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board in Western Visayas.

He said the wage board would start discussing the petitions for a wage increase starting the end of the month. *With reports from Abigail L. Ho in Manila; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Estrada accepts authority of Sandiganbayan

(From page A1)

due process.

Estrada had also refused to enter a plea to the lesser charge of perjury last month.

In his statement, Estrada claimed that during his impeachment trial, he was "summarily convicted in a trial by publicity, motivated by political ambitions and abetted by a biased media."

He said "this is injustice of the highest order, inflicted not only on my person, but also on our judicial system and our Constitution."

"I ask our people and the authorities concerned to accord me the same rights guaranteed by the Constitution and which I, as President, have so zealously respected and protected," his statement read.

The ousted leader noted that during both a Senate inquiry into allegations that he accepted jueteng money and his aborted impeachment trial, "I (did not resort) to the suppression of the basic democratic rights guaranteed our people under the Constitution."

He said that during his short term as President, he respected the rights to freedom of assembly and speech and the freedom of the press.

"Even if I have been maliciously maligned and defamed. I did not resort to repressing these freedoms and . . . refused any order for the dispersal of demonstrations and protest actions at Edsa," he said.

Loi not off hook

Sen. Loi Ejercito may still be prosecuted for graft along with her husband, a government prosecutor said yesterday.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio said the former first lady was not off the hook yet, even though the Office of the Ombudsman had already withdrawn a graft complaint filed against her with the Sandiganbayan.

The anti-graft court refused to favor the Ombudsman's motion to withdraw the case, said Gervacio.

"The first division did not allow us to withdraw the graft charges. So we are constrained to submit all the evidence against the former first lady," he said.

He said the prosecution panel would be forced to prosecute Ejercito if the court issues a warrant for her arrest, but he added that the first division of the Sandiganbayan, which is handling the graft case, was not yet disposed to issue a warrant.

"There is a standoff. But the moment the court issues the warrant, we will be forced to comply," Gervacio said.

Ejercito would be allowed to post bail since graft is not a capital offense.

She was indicted for violating the anti-graft law by allegedly receiving a share of P130 million worth of tobacco excise taxes.

But the Ombudsman decided to withdraw the graft case and several other cases lodged against the former President as a legal strategy to strengthen the plunder case.

Court order

The Sandiganbayan yesterday ordered the prosecution to allow Estrada and his co-accused to inspect, inventory and reproduce all the documents constituting evidence against him in the perjury case.

In a one-page resolution, the first division, headed by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, granted the motion of the accused "for the production, inspection and reproduction of documents" submitted by the prosecution.

The court granted the motion "so that the accused will have no cause to be unready for the scheduled pre-trial" on Aug. 2.

Also yesterday, Estrada's lawyers again sought the inhibition of Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the Sandiganbayan's third division, which is hearing the plunder case.

Opposition

For its part, the Ombudsman will oppose a petition filed Tuesday by Estrada's lawyers in the Supreme Court. The petition asks the high tribunal to declare the plunder law—ironically co-authored by Estrada and his lawyer Rene Saguisag—unconstitutional because of vagueness.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, the chief prosecutor in the cases against Estrada, told a press conference yesterday that he would block all attempts of the defense panel to have the plunder case dropped.

"In questioning the plunder law, Estrada's lawyers just want the Supeme Court to declare it unconstitutional. (If they were to succeed), the Sandiganbayan would be forced to dismiss the complaint," Desierto said.

The defense panel filed the petition on Tuesday morning in an unsuccessful attempt to stop the afternoon arraignment of the former President, Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio.

Gervacio said the high court should not entertain the defense's petition since the Sandiganbayan has already rejected a defense motion seeking to quash the case on the same grounds of unconstitutionality.

The anti-graft court "ruled that the law is very clear, valid and therefore perfectly constitutional," Gervacio said, "so we are opposing the same petition . . . but more vigorously."

Erap signed it

The Ombudsman plans to oppose the defense petition on at least two grounds: that the law is clear and not vague and that the plunder law, Republic Act 7080, was co-authored by the deposed President and Saguisag when they were still senators.

"Estrada signed the bill as one of the authors. While Saguisag did not do so out of his opposition to the imposition of capital punishment on all accused convicted of plunder . . . insofar as the law is concerned, he was totally for it," Gervacio said.

The Ombudsman will also contend that there has been no denial of due process although those accused of the capital offense are not allowed to post bail.

Estrada stands accused of illegally amassing a personal fortune of more than P4 billion during his 30 months in office.

Desierto also announced that he would also ask the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision to ban live media coverage of Estrada's coming trial.

With a report from AFP

Pimentel doubts Cuevas competence as trial lawyer

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday belittled the ability of former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas to help former President Joseph Estrada escape conviction in his plunder case. Pimentel advised Cuevas, who joined Estrada's defense team earlier this week, to get a "back-up lawyer."

"I think the intelligence quotient of the defense panel is raised a few notches higher, but I'm not too sure that Justice Cuevas is a trial lawyer. There's a difference. You may be a good advocate to argue cases, but defending a criminal case takes another kind of talent," Pimentel said.

"So I hope he has a back-up lawyer," Pimentel added.

But Sen. Franklin Drilon, a former justice secretary himself, said nobody could question Estrada's choice of lawyers, adding that "it is his life that is on the line." *Armand N. Nocum*

Major gun battle erupts in Basilan; Sobero alive?

(From page A1)

couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, also among the original group of 20 taken May 27 from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

The third American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, was reported sighted in the area between Tipo-Tipo and Sumisip towns on July 7, according to Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"Sobero is alive, but he is separated from the Burnham couple for security reasons," Kabalu said yesterday, citing the latest monitoring report submitted by the MILF's Basilan division chief Commander Aloy and its 402nd Brigade's Commander Musawarin Mujahid.

On June 12, Sabaya announced that Sobero had been beheaded as an "Independence Day gift" to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Hit and run

Mabanta declined to say whether the continuing clash could lead to what the military had long been gearing for—a decisive battle.

"The Abu Sayyaf wants to avoid a decisive engagement with our troops," he said. "It will never commit its forces for that."

Mabanta also said the Abu Sayyaf was employing guerrilla tactics to evade the numerically superior and better-equipped government forces.

"It's hit and run. They hit you when your back is turned," he added.

Lantawan is the same town where, in Barangay Tairan, the Abu Sayyaf raided the Golden Harvest Plantation on June 11 and made off with 15 of its workers.

Of the 15, two were later found beheaded.

The other 13 remain in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, along with the remaining Dos Palmas hostages Rosadeno, Sobero's fiancee, Montealegre and the Burnhams, as well as Yap, Malonzo and two others taken from a Lamitan hospital where the bandits holed up on June 1-2.

The Armed Forces has deployed eight battalions in Basilan to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf.

The last clash that the AFP reported was on June 26, where four Abu Sayyaf men died.

But the Moro National Liberation Front, with whom the government signed a peace accord in 1995, later protested, saying it was MNLF men whom the soldiers killed.

On June 27, a full month after the start of the Dos Palmas hostage crisis, AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan announced that the military was anticipating a decisive battle with the Abu Sayyaf.

Sighting

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Kabalu quoted Mujahid as saying that Sobero was sighted with some of Sabaya's junior commanders.

"Sobero has been taken by another group. They want to make it appear that he is dead but he is presently confined to another group. It's just their strategy. Sobero is alive, he is not dead," Kabalu said.

But Major Gepilano was skeptical.

"Let's hope their report is true. But as far as we are concerned, (Sobero is dead) unless we see him alive," Gepilano said.

Lantawan-based Abu Sayyaf commander Hamsiraji Sali alias Jose told the INQUIRER that they had not beheaded any of their captives.

"Not a single one," Sali claimed. "Even those headless bodies (found last month) in Barangay Cabunbata, we were not responsible for that."

But Sali admitted that their group beheaded three soldiers of the 55th Infantry Battalion in Upper Sinangkapan, Tuburan, on June 4.

Asked if Sabaya's group had indeed beheaded Sobero, Sali merely smiled and said in Filipino: "Let's wait and see. We'll know that in time."

The mother of hostage Fe Rosadeno is convinced that the American is not dead.

"We still firmly believe that my daughter's friend is alive," Virginia Rosadeno said in Filipino. "Even if they don't end up marrying, what is important to us is that they come home alive and safe."

Virginia confirmed to the INQUIRER that her daughter was to marry Sobero this month. But because of what had happened, she said, "it's not likely that their plan will push through."

Sobero, of Corona, California, was in the process of divorcing his wife, with whom he has four young children.

'Subleaders'

Police have arrested two suspected "subleaders" of the Abu Sayyaf in a raid on a hideout near Basilan.

The Associated Press quoted Supt. Damming Unga as saying that his men arrested the two late Tuesday after receiving tips from civilians in the predominantly Muslim village of Baliwasan Chico.

Unga said the two men were suspected of taking part in the alleged solicitation of ransom payments from families of hostages and were undergoing interrogation early yesterday.

He refused to name them but said they were permanently based in Basilan and likely worked with Sabaya.

Unga said the two men had tried to escape the raid but were overpowered.

The arrests follow the capture Sunday of Nadzmie Saabdula alias Commander Global, who is believed responsible for last year's Sipadan hostage crisis.

Global's arrest is considered the most serious single blow yet to the Abu Sayyaf. *With an AP report*

Ibon: Most firms can afford pay hike

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE IBON Foundation yesterday said that most of the medium and large companies in the country could afford to give their employees a "living wage" of P510.84 daily despite claims to the contrary by the business sector.

An Ibon study showed that firms with capital of at least P10 million could absorb a wage increase of P125 daily because wages represented only 10.6 percent of total production cost.

The wage adjustment will be inflationary if the companies passed on the financial burden to the consumers, according to the study.

Ibon noted that the minimum wage had been kept at depressed levels even if Filipino workers steadily improved their productivity by 90 percent over an eight-year period.

Labor productivity, defined as the worth of goods and services produced by each worker, has soared to P1,214 per day. But a worker in the manufacturing sector was receiving only P218 daily.

Ibon said the current P250 minimum wage of workers in Metro Manila could provide only 48.8 percent of the basic needs of a family.

A decade ago, the minimum wage could meet 51.3 percent of the basic needs of a family, according to Ibon.

It said the P125 wage increase being sought by workers would still be insufficient to sustain a family of six.

The National Wages and Productivity Commission has corroborated Ibon's findings and placed the daily living wage at P535.77 if a family of six is to meet the daily cost of living, pegged at P508.96 in Metro Manila.

Outside Metro Manila, the daily cost of living for agricultural areas is P384.56 and P404.60 for non-agricultural areas.

The national average cost of living is placed at P420.22.

Ibon research director Antonio Tujan Jr. said the administration should be able to address the cry of workers for a wage increase because political unrest brought about by protest actions could lead to "economic convulsions."

"It is a sorry situation because the political instability cannot be avoided," Tujan said during the presentation of Ibon's annual report.

Army, Air Force tab 1-1 draw

ARCH-RIVALS Army and Air Force battled to a 1-1 draw last Sunday as the 10-team Army-Utilco International football tournament reeled off at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

Airman Ian Araneta slammed in the tying marker in the 69th minute after the Armymen had surged ahead of Jeoffrey Lobaton's goal in the 28th.

Kaya FC nipped San Beda, 3-2, and Navy crushed University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), 11-0, in two of three other completed matches.

The second match between Far Eastern University and PCU Dasmariñas was stopped by referee Danny Gonzaga in the 83rd minute due to heavy rains which rendered the field unplayable with FEU ahead, 2-1. The match will be reset later, according to tournament commissioner Hans Smit.

Ali Rojas knocked in two goals and Christian Lozano chipped in one as Kaya outsteadied the Bedans. Rojas' second marker in the 88th minute decided the contest.

Lozano and Rojas struck in the 72nd and 82nd minutes, respectively, to power Kaya to a 2-0 lead but Bedans Ronnie Seto and Jesan Candolesa quickly leveled the match with goals in the 85th and 87th minutes.

The two other teams in the tourney organized by Philippine Army, sponsored by Utilco International Trading and sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation are College of St. Benilde and PCU Taft.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Always Florence 2. Duces Tecum 3. River Bandit

Race 2—1. Duke Mark 2. Silky Sullivan 3. Reverie 4. With Feeling

Race 3—1. Beauty and Grace 2. Respect the Ace 3. Royal Diamond 4. High Pitch

Race 4—1. Playing With Fire 2. Ultimate Guide 3. Simply Great 4. Gangway 5. Worth Ur While

Race 5—1. Perry's Will 2. Noble Heart 3. Two Thumbs Up 4. Batang Bata

Race 6—1. Woman's Task/Sunny View 2. Turbo Carera 3. Full Blast 4. Classy Babe

Race 7—1. The Serpent 2. Madam Aida 3. Ikaw 4. Friendly Lover

Race 8—1. Sham Sham 2. Bravada 3. Celebration 4. Be Happy 5. Swinger

SMB AHEAD

Tanduay halts Purefoods

GAMES TOMORROW *(Philsports)*
5:15 p.m. – Pop Cola vs SMB
7:30 p.m. – Tanduay vs Red Bull

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TANDUAY Gold did what it does best at crunchtime, unleashing its bread-and-butter running game to roll over Purefoods, 83-77, last night and keep alive its hopes for the PBA Commissioner's Cup quarterfinals at Philsports.

Desperate to make the next round despite great odds, the Rhummasters outscored the Hotdogs, 17-7, in the final seven minutes to snap Purefoods' five-game winning streak and post their third win in eight games.

In the second game, San Miguel Beer averted an endgame collapse to subdue Barangay Ginebra, 101-92, and assure itself of a twice-to-beat incentive. The Beermen also regained the solo top spot with a 6-2 record, while handing the Gin Kings' fourth loss in eight games.

CARIASO

However, Tanduay still needs to win its last assignment —and hope that Pop Cola loses to San Miguel —to assure itself of an outright slot in the quarterfinals.

"We just have to win tonight," said Tanduay coach Derrick Pumaren. "I told the players to take care of business and control our destiny."

Right now, the Rhummasters' fate is still in their hands, needing to win over Batang Red Bull for better standing. If the Panthers win their last outing, they will dispute the last quarters berth via a rubber match.

Tanduay's Kevin Freeman relied on his speed and athleticism to contain the taller and more experienced David Wood, tallying 23 points, 19 rebounds, five blocks and four assists.

Meanwhile, the PBA Press Corps will launch its annual sportswriting contest tomorrow during the PBA games at Philsports. For details, call Hazel Ancheta at 638-1815.

Scores:

TANDUAY 83 – Freeman 23, Cariaso 18, Hontiveros 18, Locsin 8, Realubit 4, Pumaren 4, Webb 4, Cantonjos 2, Balingit 2.

PUREFOODS 77 – Wood 19, Patrimonio 17, Castillo 14, Fernandez 11, Evangelista 8, Yee 4, Yap 2, Felhl 2.

Quarters: 21-28, 42-41, 58-65, 83-77.

USC cagers cop Adidas Streetball

THE UNIVERSITY of San Carlos ruled the midget and junior divisions while the girls team returned for another crack at the national title during last weekend's Visayas eliminations of the Adidas Streetball Challenge 2001.

Before cheering Cebuanos, Team Buzzer Beater, led by MVP Adrian Alforque's 9 points, dumped Team Vision, 15-9, in the midget class, while Team Hawk routed Team Santosage, 12-3, at the SM Activity Center.

Abbie Jame Manga, who played in last year's NCR finals, returned to lead Team Big Court, 10-6, to win the girls title over Team Response.

The prizes were awarded by Adidas Philippines Managing Director John Alonte, Adidas Philippines Marketing and Sales Director Sonny Nebres, Philippine Basketball League Commissioner Chino Trinidad, Team Ventures head Emmet Penson and tournament director Charlie Dy.

Rodee Consancio towed Team Nitrate to the senior division over Team Baseline, 12-6.

Team Poseidon, composed of Randy Dogmoc, Eddie Abapo, Bruce Arlanton and Erwin Canteviros, ruled the Streetball on Wheels category over Team Specialist, 6-5.

The winners qualified for the NCR finals set for Aug. 18-19 in Manila. They also won P5,000 and P10,000 worth of Adidas sportsgear.

Zed-Gulf Oil-MP is Subic champ

THE MIGHTY Zed-Gulf Oil-MP Turbo Team dominated last weekend's Subic Grand Prix series by winning 5 of the 6 races the team participated in.

Supported by Zed and Gulf Oil, the team relied on its old and new drivers to bring home the bacon. Team support also came from Francisco Motors Corp., Abante newspaper, Rota Wheels, GomaKing Trading, Yehey.com, AER Engines, BLTBCO, Bavarian Machine Works and race specialist MP Turbo.

Shocking the establishment was team captain Mike Potenciano, who finally broke his long wait for a win when he was handed the first place in Round 9 of the Petron Blaze Super Saloon class. Taking pole position in his revitalized Honda Civic in Saturday's qualifying, Potenciano blitzed the field by as much as 7 seconds from second place Kookie Ramirez before the pace car came out to remove a stricken car in the track.

After the restart, Potenciano's engine sprung a leak from a busted radiator and overheated the engine. Struggling to the finish, Potenciano finished third but the top two, Ramirez and Nilo Pazcoguin, were penalized for a bumping incident and overtaking while under the caution flag, respectively.

Goran national hero in Croatia

SPLIT, Croatia—Overwhelmed with pride and happiness, tens of thousands of Croats celebrated into the night with Wimbledon winner Goran Ivanisevic, who returned to his hometown as his numerous fans' undisputed hero.

For them, Ivanisevic is a genius, a national hero. One banner even suggested: "Ivanisevic for president!" The fans, smiling and crying out of joy, packed the main square of this southern city, and others came by the sea, filling Split's harbor area with a multitude of little white vessels. As Ivanisevic came to a stage, the crowd exploded into euphoria, following his cliffhanger Grand Slam victory over Australian Patrick Rafter in five sets on Monday. *AP*

Padilla sparkles for Gems

STANDINGS	W	L
Negros	7	3
Andok's San Juan	7	3
Cebuana Lhuillier	7	3
LBC Batangas	2	4
FedEx Laguna	3	4
Nueva Ecija	2	4
Davao	2	7
Socsargen	2	7

GAMES TOMORROW
Tinga Gym (Taguig)
3:00 p.m—Batangas vs Socsargen
USLS Gym (Bacolod)
5:30 p.m.—Laguna vs Negros

By Roy Luarca

STEPHEN Padilla's clutch triples broke the backs of the Nueva Ecija Patriots last night as the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems coasted to a 96-81 victory for a share of the lead in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the Cebu City Coliseum.

The Patriots staged several rallies, but whenever they had a run, Padilla was there to cut it short and clear the way for Cebu's seventh win in nine starts.

First was when the Patriots managed to close in at 58-48 on a four-point play by Sonny Manucat early in the third quarter. Padilla knocked in two triples in a 10-point blitz that padded the lead back to 21.

Second was when the count was at 77-61, early in the fourth quarter. Padilla buried two triples in another 10-point cluster that gave the Gems their biggest spread of 26 points.

It was over by then, but Padilla made the last of his six triples to cap his 22-point effort that pulled down the Patriots to 2-5.

Earlier, Mike Manigo and Bong Marata took it upon themselves to bail the Davao Eagles out of trouble as they subdued the Socsargen Marlins, 91-88.

The hardworking duo tallied Davao's last 13 points that wiped out a 6-point Socsargen lead with 4 minutes and 46 seconds to go and handed the Eagles their second victory in nine starts.

Manigo contributed nine of his game-high 22 points in that span, including the two clinching free throws with but 3.6 ticks left, as the Eagles avenged their 101-85 defeat to the Marlins last July 1.

It was Marata, however, who earned player of the game honors, with his all-around 20-point, 10-rebound, five-assist and two-steal effort that pulled down the Marlins to 2-7.

The scores:

DAVAO 91—Manigo 22, Marata 20, Simon 17, Bernardo 17, Menor 7, Dela Rosa 5, Caliao 3, Almonte 0, Daja 0, Bonleon 0.

SOCSARGEN 88—Santos 14, Alvarez 14, Reyes 12, Echavez 9, Teng 8, Bade 8, Flores 7, Co 6, De Jesus 4, Salvador 2, Natividad 0.

Quarters: 22-16, 47-42, 68-64, 92-88.

JRU, UPHR seek 2nd win

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
12 nn.—Jose Rizal vs Mapua (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—San Sebastian vs UPHR (jrs/srs)

JOSE Rizal and University of Perpetual Help-Rizal trek uphill paths as they tackle separate opponents today at the resumption of the 77th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Bombers gun for their second consecutive victory against the Mapua Institute of Technology Cardinals at 12 nn. before the Altas aim to conquer the San Sebastian College Stags in the nightcap.

On high spirits after an opening-day victory, the Bombers are again tipped to showcase their vaunted run-and-gun brand of play, a ploy that produced wonders during their 55-54 squeaker over the Stags.

"What we lacked in height we simply made up in speed," said JRU coach Boy De Vera, who has graduating veterans Ariel Capus, Rendel Dela Rea, Ernani Epondulan, John Dale Valena and Nathaniel Gregorio as his mainstays.

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AL stars beat NL rivals

SEATTLE — On the night when all of baseball gathered to honor him, Cal Ripken delivered his own All-Star sendoff. Ripken upstaged Ichiro Suzuki, Barry Bonds and every other big name in the ballpark, hitting a home run in his final All-Star appearance to lead the American League over the Nationals, 4-1, Tuesday. What began as a trip down memory lane _ Ripken started at shortstop, at Alex Rodriguez's suggestion _ wound up with him taking a glorious trip around the bases.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: LPGA Jamie Farr Kroger Classic, Third Round at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA Advil Western Open, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r), Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

CYCLING: 2001 Tour de France Highlights Stage #4 at 1:30 p.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN

BASKETBALL: 2001 ABC Champions Cup, Pr-liminary Round at 1 p.m. Semifinal #1 at 2:30 p.m on Star Sports

BOXING: Fight Tim on Fox 2001 at 9:30 p.m on Star Spoorts

CASAS, ROSALES PAIRED

CAP-Legends Classic starts at Southwoods

THE COLLEGE Assurance Plan-Legends Classic starts today at the Manila Southwoods, with Cassius Casas and Gerald Rosales paired together for an expected early collision between the two top seeds.

Casas, 34, is riding on the crest of his recent victory in the Philippine Open two weeks ago while Rosales, 24, hopes to regain some pride after badly losing his Open crown at Wack Wack.

There are 84 pros and 58 amateurs teeing off today in the pro-am, with the score of the pros counted as first round play.

Casas is paired with former President Ramos and Rosales with Southwoods chair Bob Sobrepeña.

Lawyer Enrique Sobrepeña, president and CEO of the sponsoring College Assurance Plan, will hit the ceremonial tee off together with Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola, NGAP president Rod Feliciano and GMA Foundation officials Mary Anne Colayco and Rafael Evangelista.

The event is the fifth stop of the Philippine Golf Tour and, except for MRT-Southwoods Open winner Rey Pagunsan, all the other leg champions are in the cast.

Danny Zarate, the CAP-Forest Hills Classic winner who finished second behind Casas in the Philipine Open, and Tony Lascuña, the Ericsson-Smart titlist at Sherwood Hills, loom as the most solid threat to the title bids of Casas and Rosales.

Like the rest of the big guns, John Hay Open winner Richard Sinfuego will also try to become the first two-leg winner of the tour.

College Assurance Plan has put up a whopping P700,000 prize package for the five-in-one event that will also feature competitions in seniors, super seniors, amateurs and pro-am.

Also lending their support as sponsors are Ericsson, Smart, Manila Southwoods Manor, Publicist Spark and Wilson sports.

The winner in the regular pro division gets P100,000. P20,000 goes to the seniors (60 years and above) champion, P10,000 to the super seniors and another P10,000 to the pro of the winning team in the pro-am.

PTV-4 to air RP Open July 16-17

THE EXPLOITS of Cassius Casas in winning the recent Philippine Open Golf Championship at Wack Wack will be featured in a two-day, four-hour special over PTV-4 on July 16 and July 17. Telecasts for each day begin at 10 p.m.

This was announced yesterday by Rod Feliciano, president of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines, who jointly chaired the Open's Executive Committee with Wack Wack president Ben Abalos.

"We want our countrymen to savor the spectacle of the last Open, especially those from the provinces who could not come to personally witness the drama of Mr. Casas' victory," said Feliciano.

The 34-year-old Casas, displaying a new-found swing that corrected a flawed back swing, scored a 5-stroke victory over compatriot Danny Zarate and a 6-stroke margin over Australian David Gleeson in the P9.5-million event co-presented by Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer, with Mitsubishi as a hole-in-one sponsor.

The two-day TV special will be presented by, among others, Nissan, Honda and Toyota.

Casas fired 70-71-70-70 for a 6-under-par 282 at Wack Wack East. He was the only player to score four sub-par rounds among 161 starters that included 77 foreigners from 17 countries, 12 of them Australians.

Completing the Top 10 are Gerard Cantada (4th), Rey Pagunsan (5), Mars Pucay (6), Jason Dawes (7), Rick Gibson (7), Danny delos Santos (8), Jerome Delariarte (8) and Angelo Que (8).

RP jungolfers to play in Florida, San Diego

THE COUNTRY's bets to two major international meets in the United States left recently in separate batches.

The jungolfers are set to compete in the Optimist International in West Palm Beach, Florida, this week before battle shifts to the Junior World Championships in San Diego, California.

Accompanying the contingent are Amalia Montecillo and Merwin Mediana, chair and president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

"I believe we have better chances this year because of the new talents that emerged from the summer tour," said Montecillo.

The bets include Gerileen Handog, Jayvie Marie Agojo and Dottie Ardina in the girls category and Asian champ Judson Eustaquio, Laurence Negrido, Miko Alejandro and John Kier Abdon in the boys side. Artemio Murakami is entered in the 15-17 division.

4WD slated

THE 4TH leg of the mini 4WD Challenge 2001, a technical/open race headed by actor sportsman Jomari Yllana, will be held at the Activity Center, Alabang Town Center, on July 15 starting at 10 a.m.

The event will be presented by Channel 5 and supported by Alabang Town's Center, Bench, Joey 92.3 93.9 KC FM, and Yamaha. It is being organized by Tom's Sports International Corp.

Call Mae Abasolo at 534-0455-56 or 534-1457 for more details.

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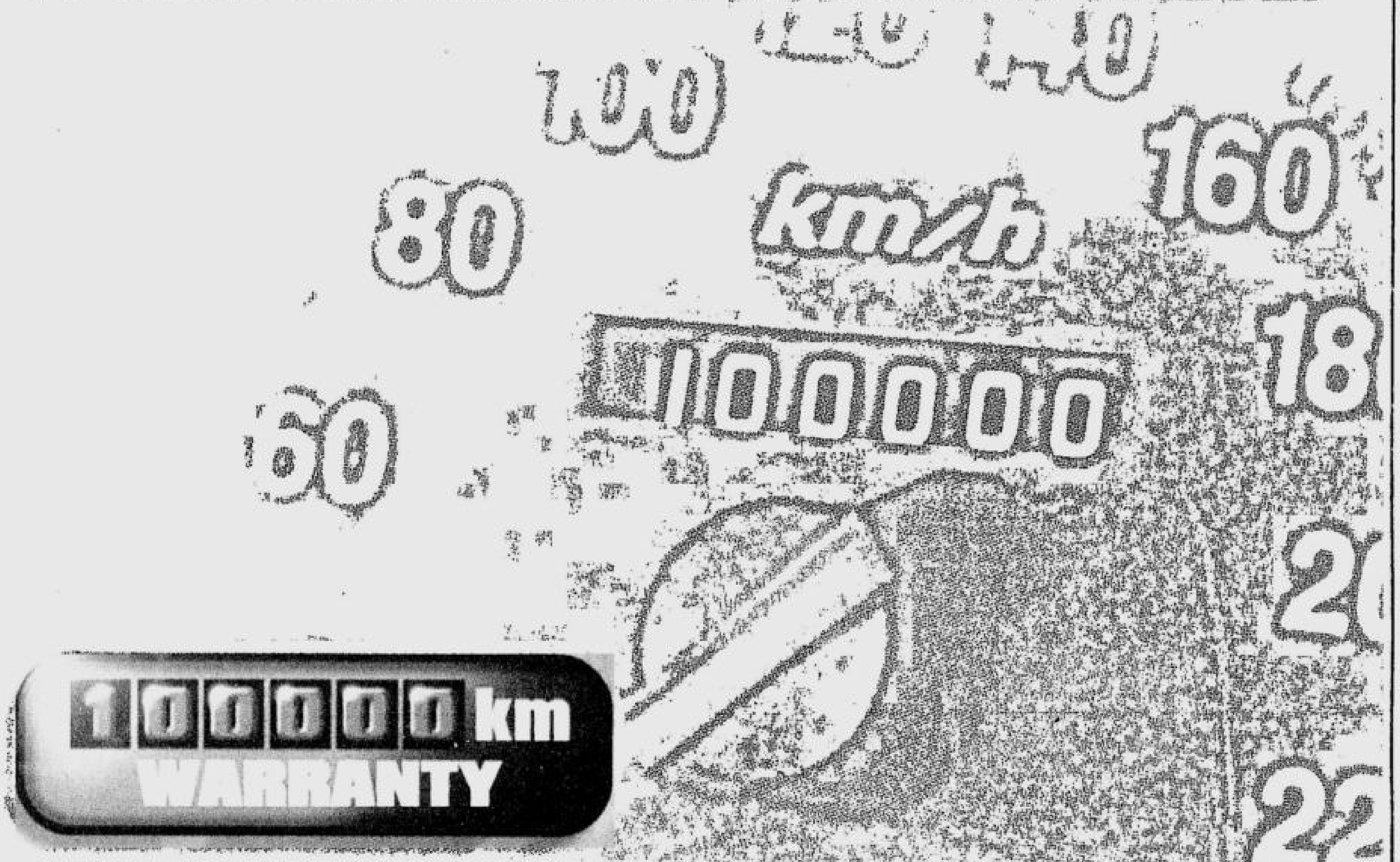

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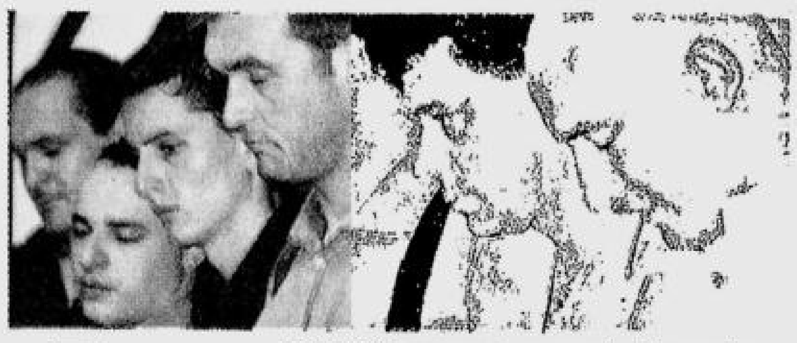
METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

1 killed in street frat fight

A 15-YEAR-OLD student was shot dead after he and his friend were ambushed by two youths in Sta. Ana, Manila late Tuesday night, in what police said was an offshoot of a quarrel between two street fraternities. Cyril Rilembo, of Pasig Line, Sta. Ana, died after he was shot on the forehead, and his 17-year-old companion was grazed on the head by a bullet. PO1 Olavario said the victims belong to a street fraternity and that their attackers were from a rival gang. *Jerome Aning*



FOREIGN suspects presented to media.

14 aliens in hi-tech stock fraud arrested

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation said yesterday it has unearthed a hi-tech stock market fraud following the arrest of 14 foreigners and a Filipino for alleged involvement in a large-scale illegal moneymaking scheme.

The NBI said the suspects—including 10 Britons, two Americans, a Canadian and an Australian—were arrested Tuesday following complaints over a telemarketing operation in the financial center of Makati.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco filed charges of violation of the country's Securities Act against the suspects before the Department of Justice yesterday morning.

The 15 suspects were nabbed by combined elements of the NBI and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) during a raid.

All 15 suspects were presented before

14 ALIENS/ A16

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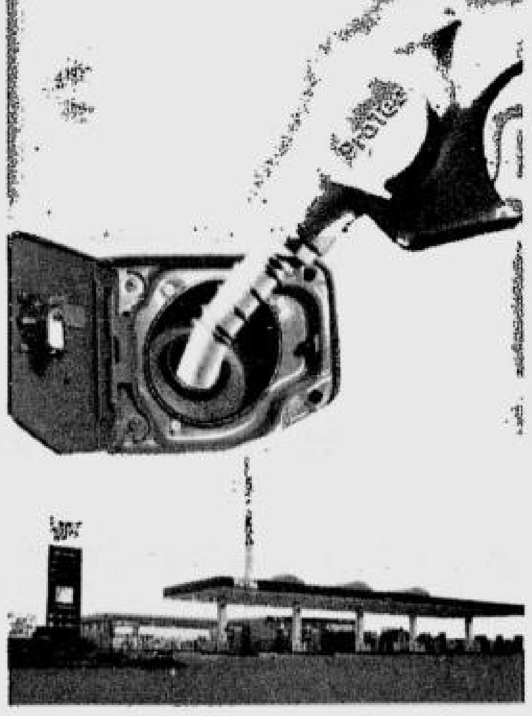

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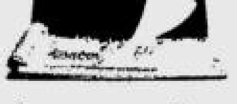

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Four senseless deaths

By Jerome Aning and Christian Esguerra

ARM wrestling, an open gate and sleep deprivation were reasons enough for four men to die in separate incidents.

In Manila, security guards Neri Jacinto, 44, and Edilberto Cano, 25, were stabbed dead during a game of arm wrestling in Paco, before dawn yesterday.

Police were able to arrest two of the alleged assailants: taxicab driver Eliseo Sibunga, 31, and factory worker Florentin Antolin, 22, residents of 1230 Interior UN Ave.

Police said Antolin, Sibunga and a third man, construction worker Nario Nicor, 30, were having a drink and enjoying a game of arm wrestling in an alley when the guards joined them about 1:45 a.m.

Jacinto and Cano were employees of the Acre Security Agency detailed at the Midland Executive Homes on United Nations Avenue in Paco, police said.

Residents in the area told SPO1 Edgardo Ko, case investigator, that the five men enjoyed their friendly game at first.

But for some reason, Nicor and the guards started to argue loudly. The argument quickly led to a fistfight, Ko said.

During the scuffle, Nicor allegedly pulled out a dagger and, aided by Antolin and Sibunga, began to stab the guards on the chest, back and abdomen.

Despite their wounds, both victims managed to flee from the suspects. Jacinto went back to his post at Midland Homes and asked the help of residents, who called the police. He was later taken to the Philippine General Hospital where he died, police said.

Cano was able to ride a pedicab on UN, which took him to the nearby Manila Medical Center. Cano died at the hospital's emergency room, Ko said.

Police are now looking for Nicor who, along with Sibunga and Antolin, are facing double murder charges.

In Navotas, security guard Ernesto Villosis, 25, killed welder Custodio Pudadera, 27, over a question of whether or not to close a gate, police said.

Villosis and Pudadera, both employees of Rosas Construction and Engineering Services on Babansi Street, Dagat-Dagatan, Navotas, were having a drink Tuesday night when the guard decided to leave the gate open so people could pass through without interrupting their drink, investigation showed.

But Pudadera did not like the idea and told Villosis to close the gate, police said.

Instead of shutting the gate, Villosis decided to shut Pudadera's mouth permanently and shot him twice in the chest with his .38-caliber service revolver, police said.

But before he collapsed, Pudadera managed to grab a steel pipe and hit Villosis on the head.

The two men were taken to the Tondo Medical Center, but Pudadera died on the way.

The suspect was charged with homicide before the prosecutor's office.

In Quezon City, tricycle driver Conrado Paniza was stabbed dead for disturbing a sleeping Nono Surillo Tuesday night, police said.

Surillo shared a room with Paniza, 40, on Cotobato Street, Barangay Magsaysay, Bago Bantay, Quezon City, police said.

Paniza, who had too much to drink that night, arrived home about 10:30 p.m. and started to joke around, rousing Surillo from his sleep, said SPO1 Ramon Fernandez of the Central Police District Homicide Division.

Surillo got up and argued with the victim. Perhaps suffering from sleep deprivation, the suspect took a knife and stabbed Paniza four times before he fled, police said.

Paniza's body was taken to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

Police are now looking for Nicor and Surillo.

Rapist of 3 girls remains at large

THE JOBLESS man who reportedly raped three teenagers in Makati City on Tuesday City remained at large yesterday.

A manhunt for the suspect was ordered by Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, Makati City police chief, following the complaint of a 15-year-old high school student from Pateros.

The complainant, identified as Aida, told investigators that, aside from her, two of her classmates were also raped by the suspect.

She identified the rapist as Tino, a resident of East Rembo, Makati City.

The two other victims, identified as Lorna and Fe, have lodged any complaint.

Aida told investigators that Tino was able to lure them at about 2 p.m. on Tuesday into his house, where he took turns raping them. She added that they were not able to resist his advances for fear that he would kill them.

The complaint was later brought to Camp Crame for physical examination. *Nelson Flores*

3 in June 12 massacre fall

By Michael Lim Ubac

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday announced the arrest of three suspects in the Independence Day massacre where five people were killed during a birthday party in Novaliches, Quezon City.

NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco presented to members of the media the suspects in the killing of Virgilio Santiago, Rodolfo Fuentes, Eufemio Barcelona Jr., Lauro Adolfo and Maria Luisa Untalan.

Wycoco identified the suspects as Erid Salonga, 32, electrician; Clarito "Butch" Sy Jr., 33; tricycle driver; and Armando Sy, 36, jeepney driver.

He said the suspects fell into the hands of NBI agents in separate operations in Novaliches, Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija and Quezon province.

The suspects, who are all residents of Barangay Sta. Lucia in Novaliches, now face murder charges filed with the Quezon City Prosecutors Office.

Wycoco said his men were sill hunting down the alleged mastermind, Police Senior Inspector Alexander Navarette of the Western Police District, and three other accomplices—Gerald Portez, Romeo Francisco and Bobet Nieto.

He said the NBI received a report that Navarette is now in the custody of his superiors but would reportedly be turned over to the NBI.

Investigation by the NBI-National Capital Region showed that the suspects, who appeared to be high on drugs, allegedly murdered the victims about 7 p.m. last June 12 at the birthday party of suspect Armando Sy. The party was held in Sy's house in Interior II, Jose Abad Santos, Sta. Lucia in Novaliches.

NCR chief Edmund Arugay said Sy and his friends were having a drinking session when Navarette saw Santiago and started to shout invectives at him.

Arugay said that an old grudge sparked the verbal abuse. But Santiago apologized to Navarette who drew his gun and fired at Santiago, Arugay said.

He said Navarette also ordered his six companions to kill the other guests.

The killing caught the attention of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, which immediately referred the case to the NBI.

The arrest came after NBI operatives conducted surveillance and then raided the house of suspect Erid Salonga for drugs on the strength of a search warrant, Arugay said.

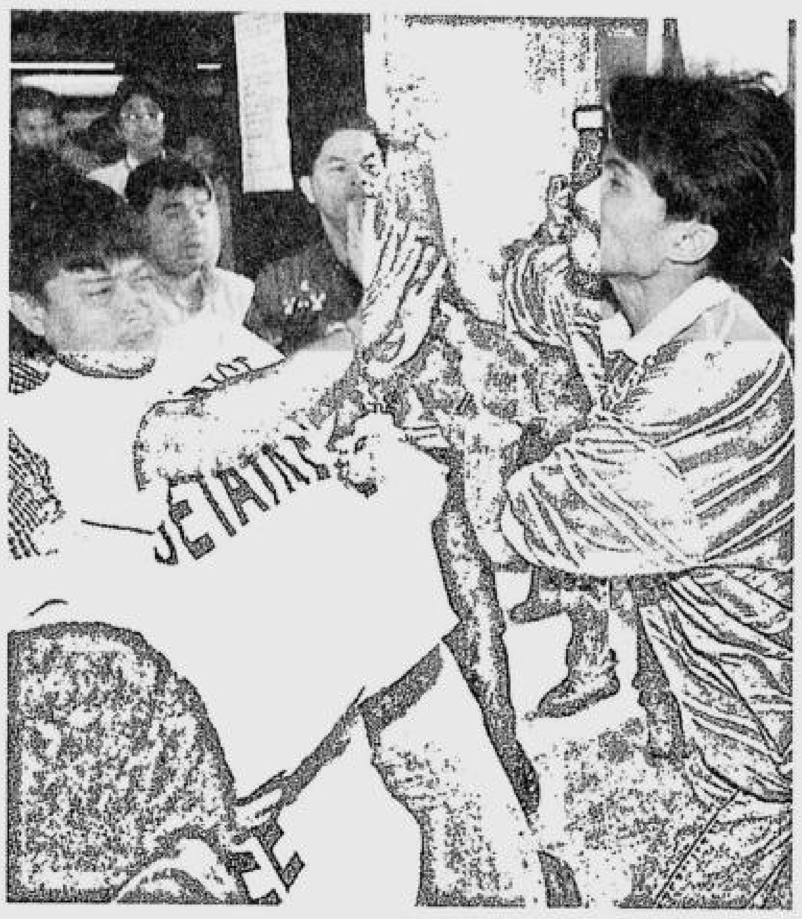
NBI agents found several sachets of shabu during the search, Arugay added.

Salonga, who was present during the raid, agreed to go to the NBI main office for questioning.

Arugay said Salonga readily admitted participation in the June 12 killing and later identified the other suspects, which led to the arrest of Butch Sy in Quezon province and Armand Sy in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.

The suspects yesterday also admitted their participation in the murders to reporters but insisted that they were just following Navarette's order to kill the other guests.

Aside from the suspects, Wycoco also presented to members of the media a *sumpak*, bolo and lead pipe the suspects allegedly used in the killings.



A RELATIVE of massacre victims attacks a suspect during media presentation of alleged killers. DENNIS SABANGAN

Cops close in on Equitable Bank robbers

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CENTRAL Police District yesterday claimed it was closing in on the seven armed men who robbed a Quezon City bank on Tuesday, following the recovery of the group's getaway car yesterday.

Inps. Rudy Jaraza, chief of the CPD Homicide Division, said he and his men have already identified the suspects and they expect to capture them within the week.

The group, Jaraza said, was the same gang that robbed the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. branch in Paco, Manila last week.

Yesterday morning, police recovered a dark green Mitsubishi Adventure van that the suspects used as getaway vehicle after robbing the Equitable-PCI bank branch on Aurora Boulevard near Balete Drive, Quezon City on Tuesday.

The group took at least P100,000 during the two-minute heist.

Jaraza said the suspects abandoned the van on Lantana Street, Cubao. He said the vehicle was probably stolen since its license plate number belonged to a Nissan car.

On Tuesday night, CPD operatives cased the suspects' two hideouts somewhere in Rizal, Jaraza said.

But the group instead proceeded to another safehouse somewhere in southern Manila after Tuesday afternoon's robbery, he said.

"Within this week, we will be able to arrest them. In the history of Quezon City, no gang has ever escaped the law."

Contrary to speculations that the suspects were former policemen or soldiers, Jaraza said they were composed of "hardcore hoodlums."

Some of them could be remnants of the notorious "Bonnet" gang that Quezon City Police had busted several weeks ago.

An open letter to Ping Lacson

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

JOHNNY Borromeo, a mutual friend of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's and this writer, called me after my return from Cebu City, Monday, to ask why I kept hitting Lacson in this corner.

"Mon, *tinatanong ni* Ping *kung bakit inuupakan mo siya. Ano ba raw ang kasalanan niya sa iyo* (Ping asks why you keep hitting him. He asks what offense he has committed against you)?" Johnny, a former hunting buddy, said over the phone.

I told Johnny Borromeo I had nothing personal against Lacson. "*Trabaho lang ito,* Johnny, *walang personalan* (I have a job to do, it's nothing personal)," I said.

To me, public interest transcends friendship a hundred times over.

And by way of answering Ping Lacson, who became my friend while I was covering the defunct Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) in the late 1970s as a police reporter, here's an open letter to him:

Dear Ping,

I first met you when I was sent by my newspaper, the Times Journal, in 1976—if memory serves—to get a story about a kidnap suspect who was killed by men under you and then Capt. Reynaldo Berroya. At that time you were under Berroya who was the head of the MISG's police intelligence branch (PIB). The PIB was the most active branch within the MISG when it came to going after criminals, particularly kidnappers.

At that time the MISG was already making waves for solving kidnap-for-ransom cases and killing suspected kidnappers, as well other crime suspects, in reported shootouts. Everybody knew there were no shootouts; the suspects were either tied up or their hands were raised in surrender when they were shot. The MISG had also become notorious for torturing political detainees; this was handled by another branch.

When we first met I envied you and hated myself for not making it to the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). My childhood dream was to become a military officer like my Old Man. I asked myself, "How did this young man make it to the PMA and I didn't?"

I told you how I felt about myself in comparison to you. You even laughed and said that everybody had his own destiny. You said you were destined to become a military officer while I was destined to be a journalist.

Nobody could believe you were an officer and commanded men because you looked like a teenager. Up to now you have retained your "baby face" look.

But your baby-face look was deceiving because your men feared and respected you. Most of your subordinates at the MISG were old enough to be your father. And most of all, criminals—even at that time—feared you like the plague. You didn't hesitate to order criminals "salvaged" (executed) if you received orders from higher-ups.

"It's a job, Mon, I may not like the orders given to me but I have to follow them. I'm a soldier," you told me once when I asked you why you had to kill kidnapers and other criminals when you could just arrest them and charge them in court.

I had transferred to the Manila Bulletin (then the Bulletin Today) when I covered the abortive assassination of the controversial Makati Mayor Nemesio Yabut. You and your men arrested all the suspects in the failed assassination attempt.

I asked you why you didn't kill the suspects after they had confessed to the crime. Your answer: orders from upstairs. You said the masterminds were relatives of then First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Just then, I heard screams coming from another room. I asked you who it was and you said he was a suspect in another crime. You said the guy was being tortured by your men to make him confess.

"Mon, what you hear and see in this office, please don't write about because we might look bad," you told me.

You justified torturing crime suspects, especially the ones charged with kidnapping, rape and murder, because "they deserve it."

I agreed with you then. But looking back now, I regret agreeing with you.

Every time I came to visit you for a story, I would see the marks on the wall of the detention cell inside the MISG headquarters increasing. The notches were written by one of the detainees who kept track of the criminals your men had "salvaged." I once also counted the dead criminals: a minimum of two heads in one day.

After you left the MISG for greater (I mean greater and also greener) pastures, I followed your career. You became very popular in Cebu City when, as head of the Cebu Metrodiscom, your men killed all the kidnappers of the child of a Chinese businessman. As a result, you became an "adopted son" of Cebu.

I admired you all the more when, as provincial commander of Laguna in the early 1990s, you refused bribes from *jueteng* lords. Very few officers would turn down a P4-million monthly take from *jueteng*.

We became even closer, Ping, when you volunteered to give me two of your men at the PC anti-carnapping task force as bodyguards when Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dizon, chief of the defunct Constabulary Highway Patrol Group (CHPG), ordered his men to kill me. I had written very unsavory reports about the alliance of some CHPG personnel and some car theft syndicates.

That's why, Ping, when you ordered the execution of some members of the Kuratong Baleleng bank robbery and kidnap-for-ransom gang, I staunchly defended you and your men. I justified it by saying they were very bad men and deserved to die. I was among the very few columnists who defended you and your men.

(To be concluded)

METROWATCH

City exec nails snatcher

MANILA city official Gonzalo Gonzales nailed a cell phone snatcher just as the suspect was about to steal the Nokia 3210 of a female student walking along Concepcion Street beside the Manila City Hall. Gonzales, a former councilor and newly-appointed officer-in-charge of the City Markets Administration, and Ronaldo Escueta, a security guard assigned at city hall, chased and collared the suspect Wahid Rangan and turned him over to the Western Police District's special operations group based at city hall. The phone was recovered and returned to the grateful 16-year-old student, who asked not to be named. *Jerome Aning*

Worker falls to death

CONSTRUCTION worker Rene Ramirez, 35, fell off a building he was helping build and was killed when he landed headfirst Tuesday morning in Taguig, police reported yesterday. Police said Ramirez, a stay-in worker of Unicom, a telecommunication firm based at the Global City in Taguig, was on top of a cement storage tank when he slipped and fell off the third floor of the building under construction. Ramirez's coworkers took the victim to the Fort Bonifacio General Hospital, but they were too late, said SPO1 Denis Rafael, homicide investigator. *Nelson Flores*

Francisco Hi meeting

A regular membership meeting of alumni of the San Francisco High (formerly Don Mariano Marcos High School) Batch 1977 will be held at the Bahay Alumni, UP Diliman, Quezon City on Saturday, July 14. The meeting starts at 3 p.m. For further information, please contact Gloria Garcia (926-6271); Socorro Lladones (926-5015); Ms. Gloria Garcia (926-6271); Amando Esteban (806-9234);Flor Pascubillo (527-3559):Jerry Brazil (929-1766); Satur Madrinico (920-6721).

14 aliens . . .

(From page A15)

reporters yesterday. But they refused to comment on the charges.

Wycoco said the suspects were engaged in "high tech" fraud of securities and thus were charged with violation of Republic Act 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulation Code.

Wycoco identified them as Britons William Patrick Canavan, Mark Patrick Eduards, Clifford James Predgen, James Arthur Predgen, Nicholas James Appleton, Stuart Robert Rea, Louis Petrou Paphitis, Nicholas Matthew Start, Tracy Micheal Fisher and Elicia Lovesey.

The others were identified as Adam Cameron Mcglashan, an Australian, Robert David Walderman, a Canadian, US citizens Daniel Newhouse and Jonathan Steven Farber, and Josephine Marzan Duey, a Filipino.

Two others-Charles Mowbray and Ted Edwards-are still at large.

Wycoco said the suspects were allegedly selling securities like bonds, stocks and shares without a license. He said the illegal money-making scheme was "tantamount to making transactions through misrepresentation" since the securities were actually nonexistent.

He said the victims of the scheme were mostly retired foreign nationals who, he said, were inclined to invest their money into the stock markets of several countries.

NBI Interpol agents said the group earned at least US $100 million in Australia alone.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, chief of the NBI Interpol division, told reporters that the arrest of the suspects stemmed from several complaints lodged with the SEC against the Evergreen Consulting Corporation-AEC Ventures Inc.

Diaz said his men witnessed the suspects as they conduct a "tele-marketing" through overseas phone calls.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 12, 2001
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Gen 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5**
Gospel: **Mt 10:7-15**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking-stick: workers deserve their living.

When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you.

And if you are not welcomed and your words are not listened to, leave that house or that town and shake the dust off your feet. I assure you, it will go easier for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than it will for the people of that town."

Commentary:

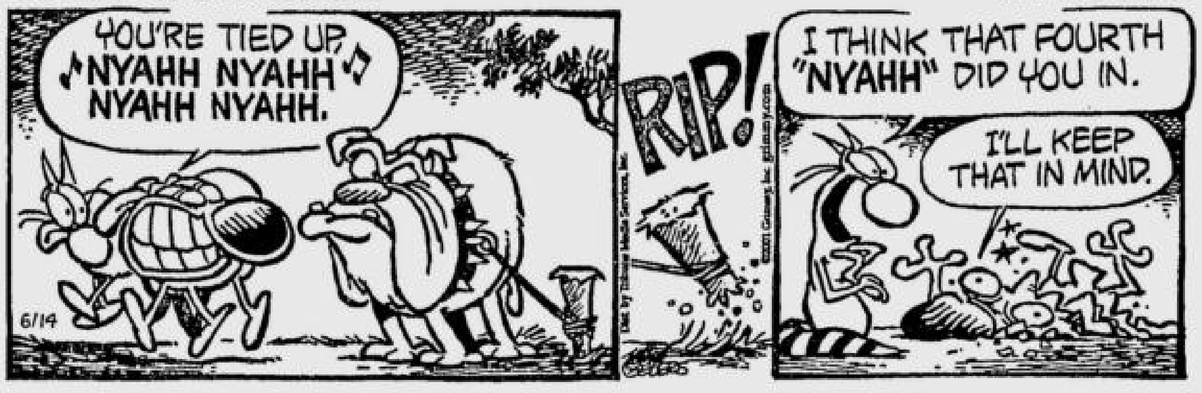
We find in today's reading the instructions that Jesus gave to his apostles just before their assignment. It is the center of the mission discourse. The apostles have to concentrate themselves exclusively on their royal task to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. As ambassadors they are endowed with divine authority and have to use this in line with their mission. They have to travel 'light' and to take care that nothing interferes with their mission. It is a mission to bring the peace of God to people and to pave the way for the coming of God's reign, like Jesus had done before them.

Father, we thank you for having chosen us to proclaim your kingdom. Grant us a pure heart that we may be faithful to this call in all situations of life.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

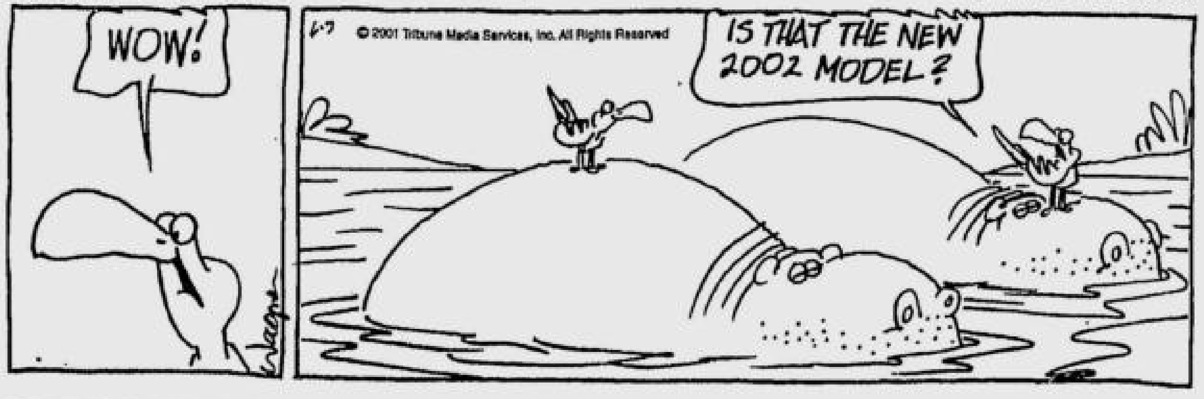
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


YOU'RE TIED UP, ♪NYAHH NYAHH NYAHH NYAHH.♪
RIP!
I THINK THAT FOURTH "NYAHH" DID YOU IN.
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
6/14

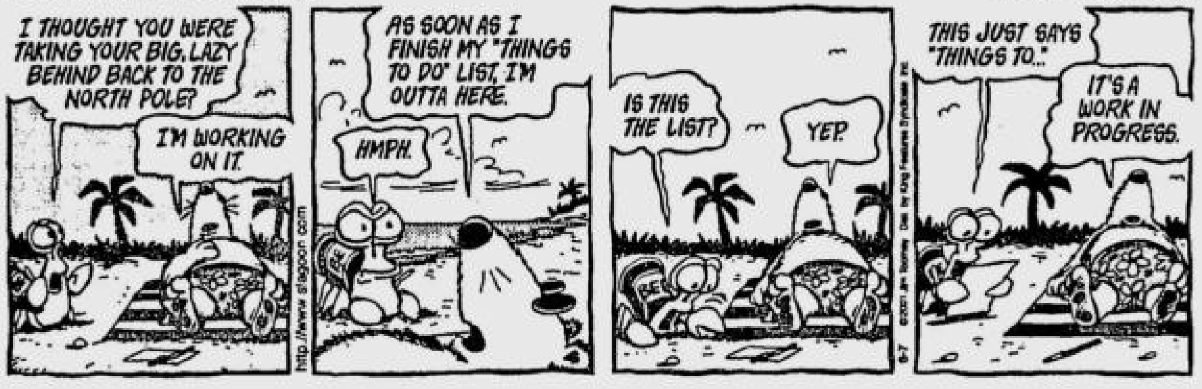
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WOW!
6-7 © 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
IS THAT THE NEW 2002 MODEL?

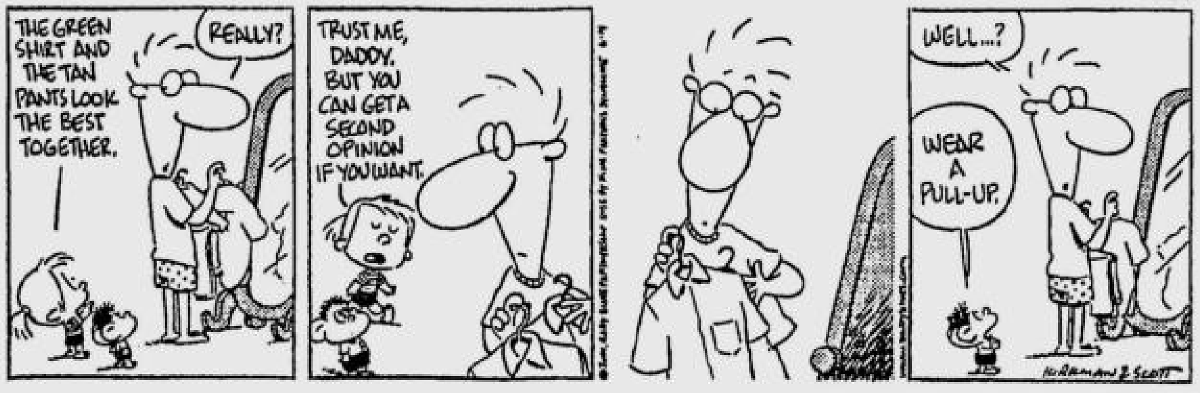
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING YOUR BIG, LAZY BEHIND BACK TO THE NORTH POLE?
I'M WORKING ON IT.
http://www.slagoon.com
AS SOON AS I FINISH MY "THINGS TO DO" LIST, I'M OUTTA HERE.
HMPH.
IS THIS THE LIST?
YEP.
THIS JUST SAYS "THINGS TO."
IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THE GREEN SHIRT AND THE TAN PANTS LOOK THE BEST TOGETHER.
REALLY?
TRUST ME, DADDY. BUT YOU CAN GET A SECOND OPINION IF YOU WANT.
WELL...?
WEAR A PULL-UP.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bill Cosby, Pierre Berton, Richard Simmons, Jay Thomas, Rolonda Watts, Milton Berle, Christine McVie, Kristy Yamaguchi

Happy Birthday: You are steadfast in your ideas and have no problem persuading others to contribute to your objectives. You have the discipline and wherewithal to make things happen by organizing everyone around you to complete whatever project you're working on. Your reluctance to admit defeat will be your passageway to success. Your numbers: 9, 16, 20, 22, 37, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get busy making those much-needed changes around your home. You can make your environment far nicer by implementing your ideas and supplying some of the labor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your ability to help those who have trouble doing for themselves will be admired and recognized by people in prominent places. Don't be afraid to try out for a leadership position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be somewhat hard to get along with if you feel that someone is trying to push you into things that you're not completely sure about. Stand your ground but be diplomatic.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your ability to ferret out information will be a lifesaver. Hold on to what you have and don't lend money or possessions to friends or relatives.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make sure you have all the facts before you decide to sign an agreement or financial bond. Don't be too quick to lock yourself into a long-term arrangement.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your emotional life will suffer if you've been playing games with your partner. Social activities will be exciting, but overindulgence must be avoided if you want to spare your reputation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will do your best work at home where you can avoid interruptions. Your health may suffer if you have been burning the candle at both ends. Don't take on other people's problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will find the perfect outfit, the greatest new accessory for your house, the most wonderful place to dine, and so on. Set a limit or you're likely to overspend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't make too many changes at home. Someone you live with is likely to rebel. You may be on your own sooner than you think if you continue to take others for granted.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Invite family over for some fun in the sun. Your cooking talents will be appreciated, and new friendships will develop if you allow your guests to bring someone.

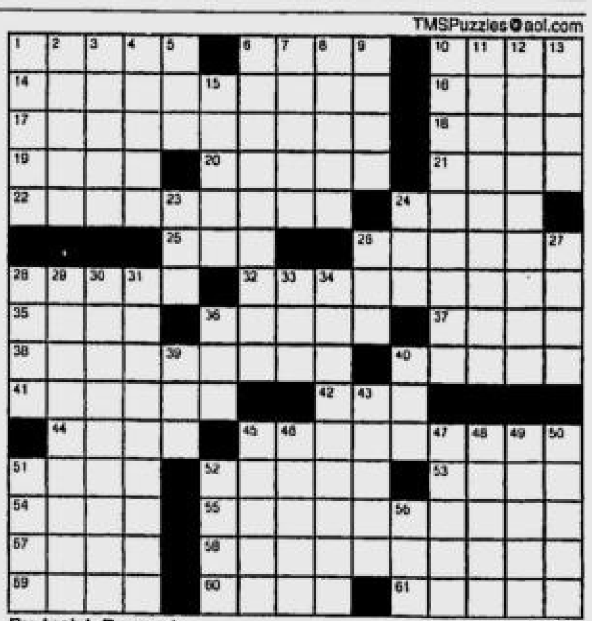
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can do well today if you put your mind to it. Interviews will go better than you imagined. You may find yourself moving into a higher earning bracket if you play your cards right.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional manner will confuse your lover. Try to react positively to your partner's ideas and concerns. You can turn your differences into passion with a little effort from both of you.

Birthday Baby: Your emotions and conscience keep you on the straight and narrow. You are intent on reaching the goals you set for yourself and will make many new and interesting discoveries throughout life. Your dedication will prove helpful in reaching your destination.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

5/26/01

ACROSS
1 Formal proclamation
6 Burrowing mammal
10 Cogwheel
14 Against the law
16 Soprano Gluck
17 Hurled from a slingshot
18 Pinocchio or Ananias
19 __ the tentmaker
20 Great honor
21 Bouquet holder
22 Vulgar
24 Acorns, after time
25 Author Deighton
26 Ball of fire
28 Destruction
32 Converted to a fine spray
35 Start again from scratch
36 Created stacks
37 Billy of "Titanic"
38 Rocky road and cookie dough
40 Chaps
41 Get gas
42 Sch. group
44 "Trees" or "Birches," e.g.
45 Pressure recorder
51 Recipe direction
52 Doctor, at times
53 __ podrida
54 Naked
55 Decorative
57 Inland sea of Asia
58 Like mother-of-pearl
59 Solidifies
60 Adversaries
61 Harbors

DOWN
1 Disney World draw
2 Tragedy
3 Minute amounts
4 Visual aid
5 Gratuity
6 Thousands of years
7 Preminger and Kruger
8 Lascivious looks
9 Mary Baker or Nelson
10 Arouse to awareness
11 "On the Waterfront" director
12 Accumulation
13 Like hens' teeth
15 Taps horn
23 Large deer
24 Popeye's Olive
26 Flop
27 Lyric poems
28 Formal legal document
29 Take back
30 Of lymphatic glands
31 Immature roosters
33 "A Nightmare on __ Street"
34 Covers over
36 Get-up-and-go
39 Daiquiri requirement
40 Practical joke
43 Crooner Mel
45 Pack animal
46 Palmer of golf
47 Popeil company
48 Take in pants, for example
49 Photosynthetic organism
50 Stops
51 Hitch
52 Hairdo
56 Mind-reading letters

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

G	A	F	F		W	A	S	P		A	R	S	O	N
R	O	A	R		A	L	E	E		R	E	T	R	Y
O	K	I	E		S	T	A	N		P	L	A	N	E
H	I	R	E	D	H	A	N	D	S		I	B	E	T
			B	O	E	R	S		A	B	E	L		
L	A	C	I	E	R			P	R	E	F	E	C	T
A	C	H	E	S		U	N	R	I	G		M	U	S
T	R	U	S	T		T	I	O		O	S	A	K	A
H	E	C		I	B	E	A	M		T	U	T	O	R
E	S	K	I	M	O	S			S	T	I	E	R	S
		W	O	E	S		T	O	L	E	T			
G	R	A	D		C	O	W	P	U	N	C	H	E	R
R	I	G	I	D		L	A	I	D		A	U	R	A
A	T	O	N	E		D	I	N	G		S	L	A	P
B	A	N	E	S		S	N	E	E		E	A	S	T

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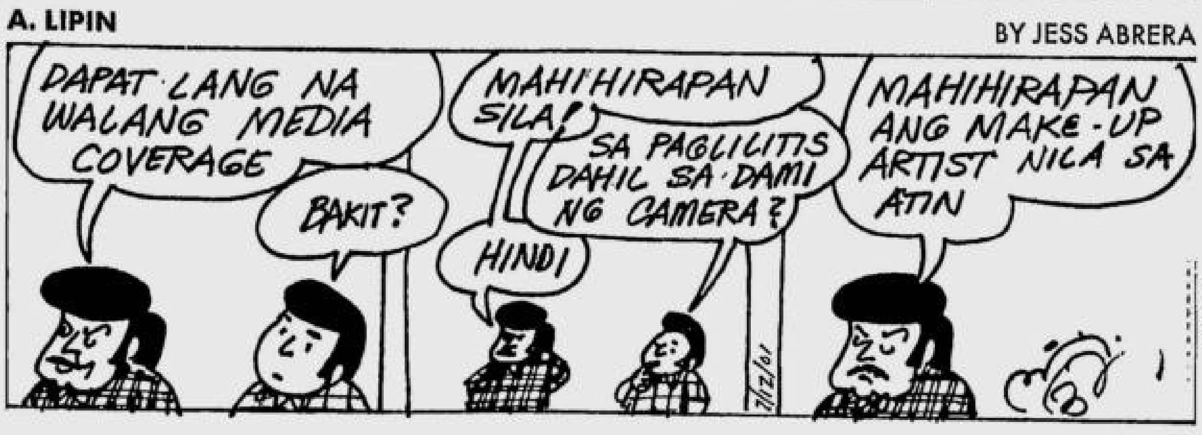
5/26/01

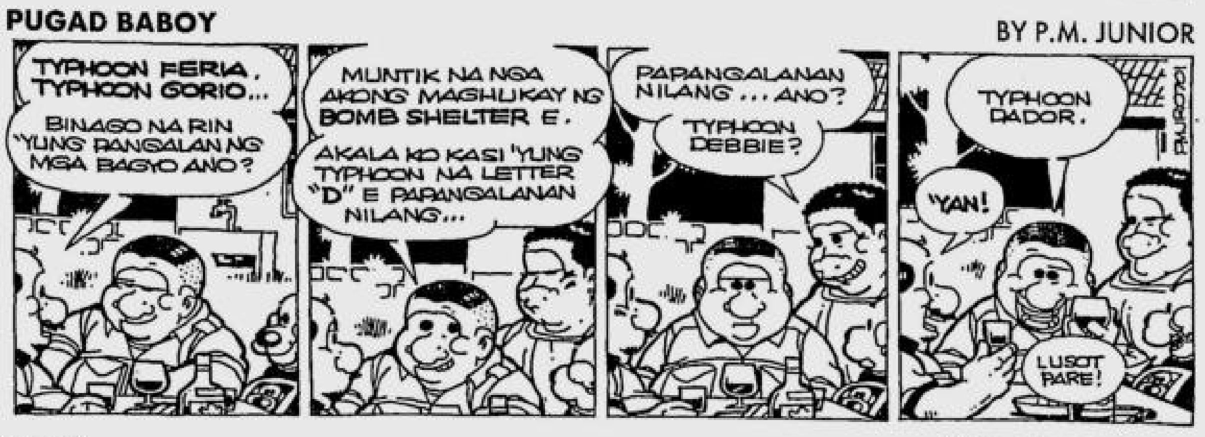
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT LANG NA WALANG MEDIA COVERAGE
BAKIT?
MAHIHIRAPAN SILA!
HINDI
SA PAGLILITIS DAHIL SA DAMI NG CAMERA?
7/12/01
MAHIHIRAPAN ANG MAKE-UP ARTIST NILA SA ATIN

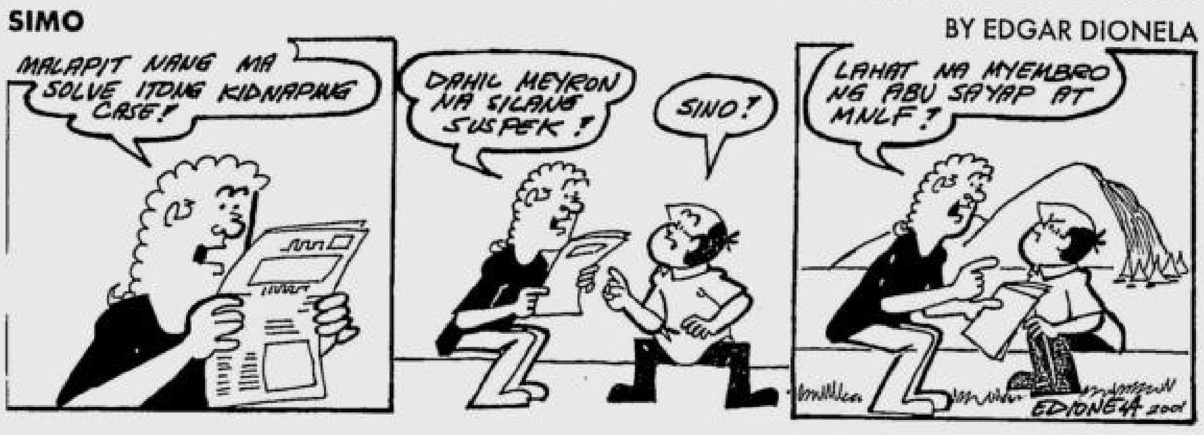
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TYPHOON FERIA. TYPHOON GORIO...
BINAGO NA RIN 'YUNG PANGALAN NG MGA BAGYO ANO?
MUNTIK NA NGA AKONG MAGHUKAY NG BOMB SHELTER E.
AKALA KO KASI 'YUNG TYPHOON NA LETTER "D" E PAPANGALANAN NILANG...
PAPANGALANAN NILANG... ANO?
TYPHOON DEBBIE?
TYPHOON DADOR.
'YAN!
LUSOT PARE!

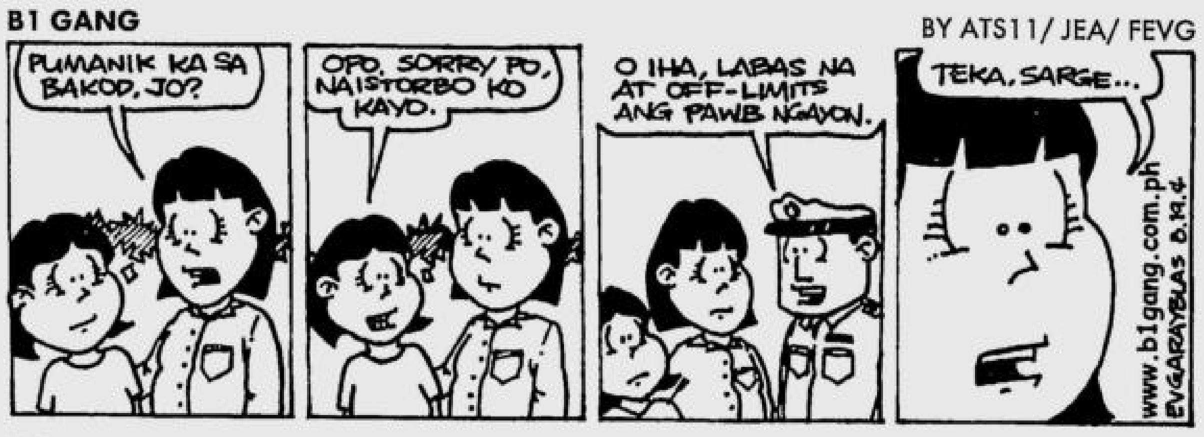
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MALAPIT NANG MA SOLVE ITONG KIDNAPING CASE!
DAHIL MEYRON NA SILANG SUSPEK!
SINO?
LAHAT NA MYEMBRO NG ABU SAYAP AT MNLF?
EDIONELA 2001

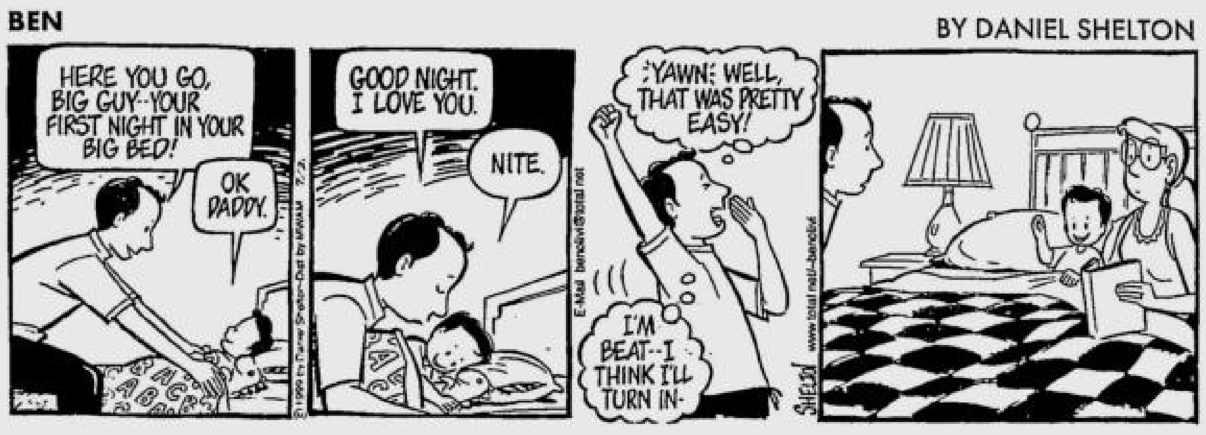
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


PUMANIK KA SA BAKOD, JO?
OPO, SORRY PO, NAISTORBO KO KAYO.
O IHA, LABAS NA AT OFF-LIMITS ANG PAWB NGAYON.
TEKA, SARGE...
www.b1gang.com.ph

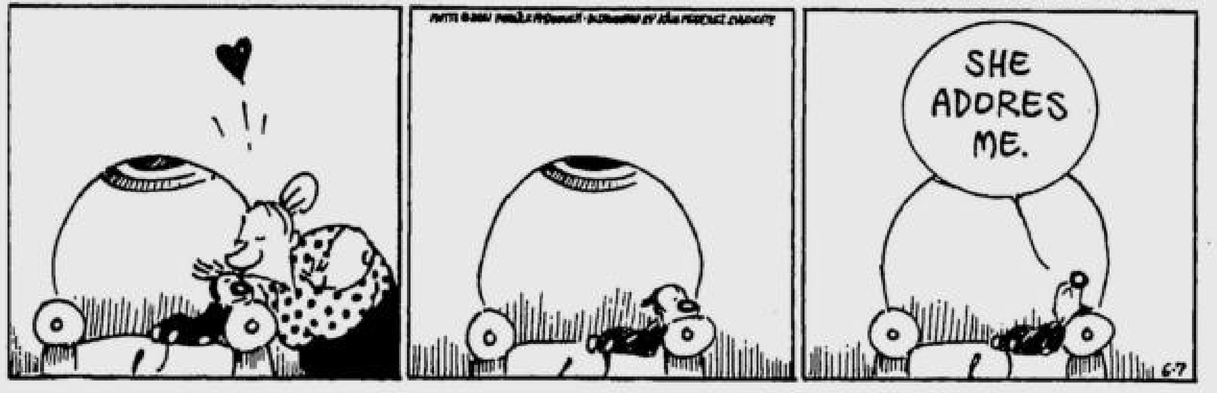
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HERE YOU GO, BIG GUY--YOUR FIRST NIGHT IN YOUR BIG BED!
OK DADDY.
GOOD NIGHT. I LOVE YOU.
NITE.
:YAWN: WELL, THAT WAS PRETTY EASY!
I'M BEAT--I THINK I'LL TURN IN-

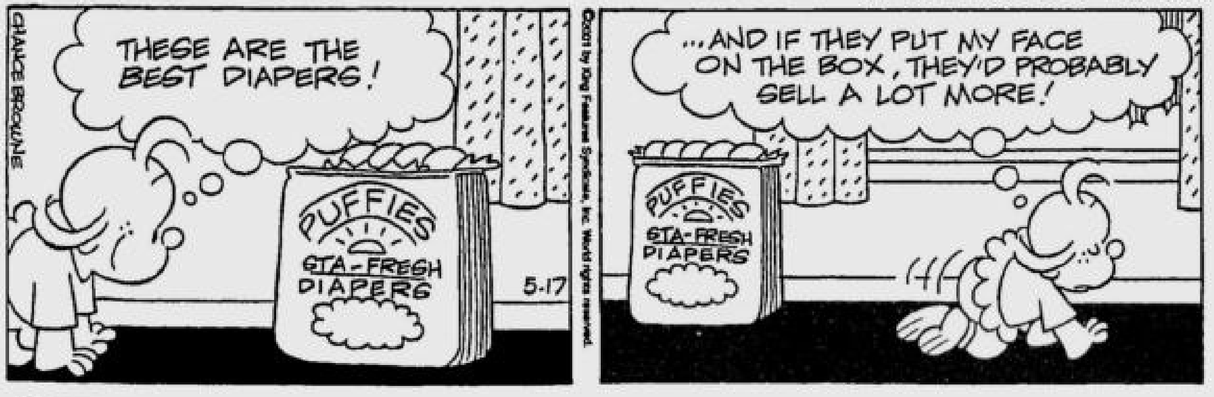
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHE ADORES ME.
6-7

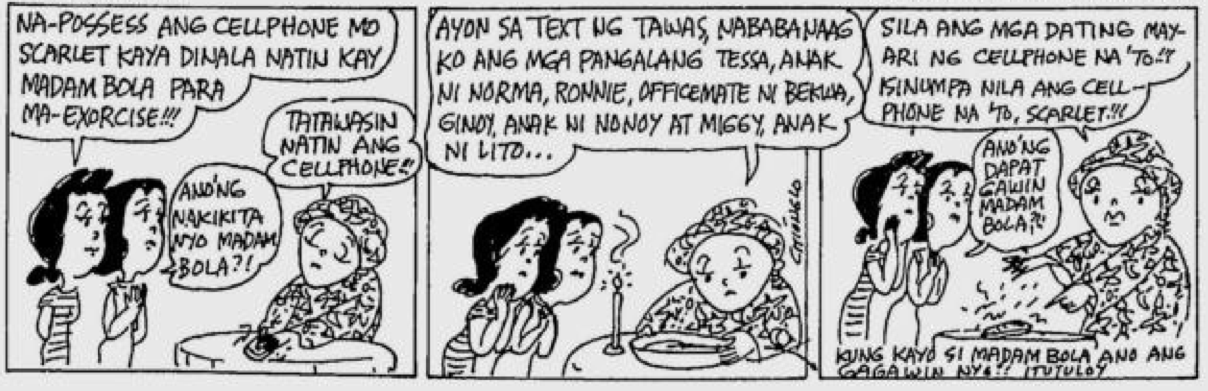
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CHANCE BROWNE
THESE ARE THE BEST DIAPERS!
PUFFIES
STA-FRESH DIAPERS
5-17
...AND IF THEY PUT MY FACE ON THE BOX, THEY'D PROBABLY SELL A LOT MORE!

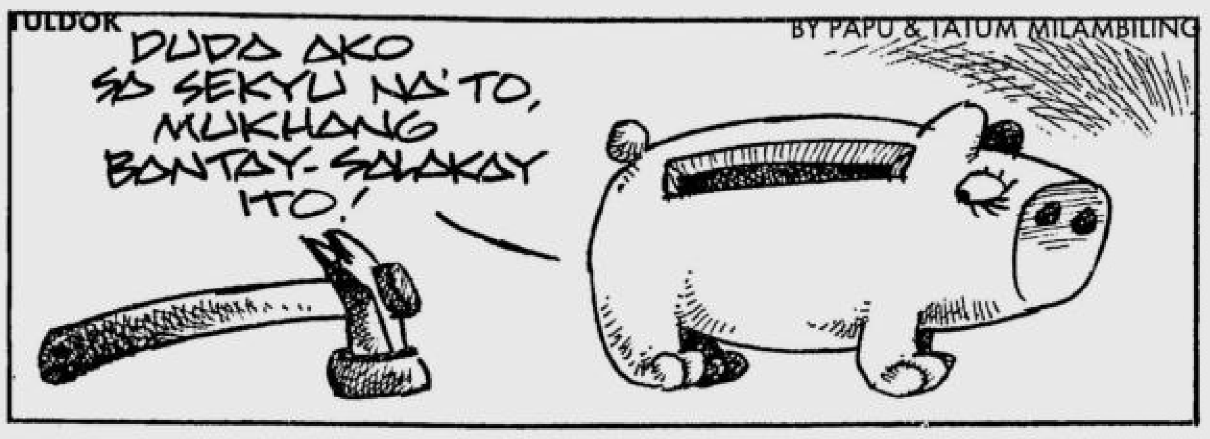
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NA-POSSESS ANG CELLPHONE MO SCARLET KAYA DINALA NATIN KAY MADAM BOLA PARA MA-EXORCISE!!!
TATAWAGIN NATIN ANG CELLPHONE!!
ANO'NG NAKIKITA NYO MADAM BOLA?!
AYON SA TEXT NG TAWAG, NABABANAAG KO ANG MGA PANGALANG TESSA, ANAK NI NORMA, RONNIE, OFFICEMATE NI BEKUA, GINOY, ANAK NI NONOY AT MIGGY, ANAK NI LITO...
SILA ANG MGA DATING MAY-ARI NG CELLPHONE NA 'TO!!
KINUMPA NILA ANG CELLPHONE NA 'TO, SCARLET!!!
ANO'NG DAPAT GAWIN MADAM BOLA?!
KUNG KAYO SI MADAM BOLA ANO ANG GAGAWIN NYO!! ITUTULOY

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING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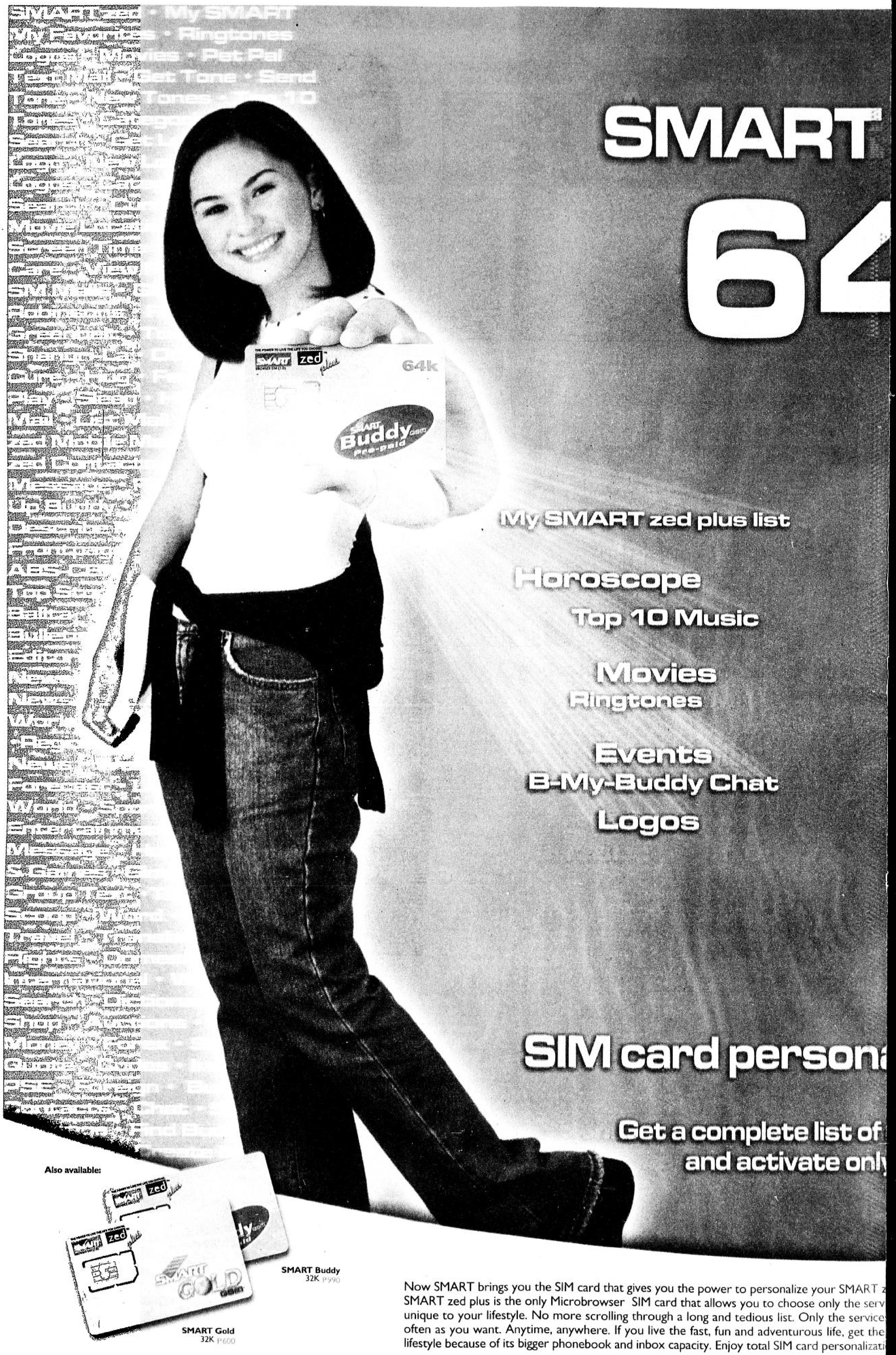
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5	DRIVEN
6	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
7	AMORSEKO
8	SWORD FISH

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1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	SWORD FISH
4	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
5	DRIVEN
6	ATLANTIS
7	TOMB RAIDER
8	FINAL FANTASY
9	MILA
10	AMORSEKO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	ONSEHAN
2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3	SWORD FISH
4	DRIVEN
5	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
6	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
7	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
8	TOMB RAIDER
9	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
10	MILA
11	FINAL FANTASY
12	AMORSEKO

SM CITY MANILA
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1	FINAL FANTASY
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
4	DRIVEN
5	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
6	SWORD FISH
7	AMORSEKO
8	EVOLUTION
9	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
10	MILA
11	ATLANTIS
12	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

SM MEGAMALL
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2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
3	DRIVEN
4	SWORD FISH
5	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
6	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7	ONSEHAN
8	MILA
9	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
10	FINAL FANTASY
11	ATLANTIS
12	AMORSEKO

SM TUTUBAN
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1	DRIVEN
2	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	AMORSEKO

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SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	ATLANTIS
4	SWORD FISH
5	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
6	FINAL FANTASY
7	DRIVEN
8	TOMB RAIDER
9	MILA
10	AMORSEKO
11	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
12	ONSEHAN

SM SOUTHMALL
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1	AMORSEKO
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	DRIVEN
4	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
5	ONSEHAN
6	ATLANTIS
7	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
8	FINAL FANTASY
9	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
10	SWORD FISH

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	AMORSEKO
2	DRIVEN
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

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2353616

1	ATLANTIS
2	GET OVER IT
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	SWORD FISH
5	TOMB RAIDER
6	ACCIDENTAL SPY
7	SPOT

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1	SWORD FISH
2	CLOSED
3	EVOLUTION
4	ACCIDENTAL SPY
5	SPOT
6	TOMB RAIDER
7	CLOSED
8	ATLANTIS

SM PAMPANGA
7120015

1	SWORD FISH
2	ATLANTIS
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	TOMB RAIDER
5	PANINDA
6	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

SM SUCAT
8294975

1	TOMB RAIDER
2	SWORD FISH
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	ATLANTIS

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1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
3	DRIVEN
4	FINAL FANTASY

GLORIETTA 4

1	FINAL FANTASY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	DR. DOOLITTLE 2 THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ATLANTIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SWORD FISH in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	DRIVEN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	DR. DOOLITTLE 2 in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	APO HIKING SOCIETY The Concert July 18 8:30pm Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	DR. DOOLITTLE 2 THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	FINAL FANTASY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALONG CAME A SPIDER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DRIVEN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
2 (SDDS)	ATLANTIS
3 (DTS)	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
4 GOLD (DTS)	SWORD FISH
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DRIVEN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
8 [illegible]	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9 [illegible]	AMORSEKO
10 [illegible]	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	FINAL FANTASY
4	
5	AMORSEKO
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
2 (DTS)	
3	AMORSEKO

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	AMORSEKO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	AMORSEKO
3	DRIVEN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FINAL FANTASY
5	ONSEHAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	ONSEHAN
2	AMORSEKO
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	FINAL FANTASY
5	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
6	DRIVEN
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	FINAL FANTASY

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	LUV TEXT
2	TOMB RAIDER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	
3	FINAL FANTASY

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
A	AMORSEKO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	FINAL FANTASY
2	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3	AMORSEKO
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ONSEHAN
3	AMORSEKO
4	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
5	TOMB RAIDER
6	DRIVEN
7 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
8 (SDDS)	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
9 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ONSEHAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	AMORSEKO
3	ONSEHAN
4 (SDDS)	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
5	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
6 (DOLBY)	DRIVEN
7 (DTS)	FINAL FANTASY
8	TOMB RAIDER
9	PANINDA

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	AMORSEKO
4	TOMB RAIDER
5 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
6	ONSEHAN
7 (DOLBY)	DRIVEN
8	PANINDA

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	FINAL FANTASY
3 (DTS)	AMORSEKO
4	ONSEHAN
5 (SDDS)	DRIVEN

Universal
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1	ONSEHAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ONSEHAN

Dilson
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2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	AMORSEKO
4	FINAL FANTASY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
2	AMORSEKO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
2	DRIVEN
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
5	ONSEHAN

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	ONSEHAN
2	AMORSEKO
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	DRIVEN

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	ONSEHAN
3	AMORSEKO
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS)	FINAL FANTASY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CITY OF SINS
2 (DTS)	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
3 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
4	DR. DOOLITTLE 2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4 (DTS)	AMORSEKO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS)	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
4	PANINDA
5	APOY SA KARAGATAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	EVOLUTION
2	PANINDA
3	

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	FINAL FANTASY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MILA
2 (DTS)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	APOY SA KARAGATAN
2	PANINDA
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	TOMB RAIDER
3	PANINDA
4	SWORD FISH

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	PANGAKO
2	FINAL FANTASY

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	AMORSEKO
3	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4	FINAL FANTASY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	FINAL FANTASY
2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
4 (DTS EX)	SWORD FISH

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8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	ATLANTIS
10	AMORSEKPO

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 13

1	DRIVEN
2	SWORD FISH
3	DR. DOLITTLE
4	ATLANTIS
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
7	FINAL FANTASY

IMUS
(046) 471-6166

1	DRIVEN
2	AMORSEKO
3	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
4	FINAL FANTASY
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	DR. DOLITTLE

NOVALICHES
687-7946 to 47

1	SWORD FISH
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
5	DRIVEN
6	AMORSEKO
7	FINAL FANTASY
8	DR. DOLITTLE

BACOLOD
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1	TOMB RAIDER
2	EVOLUTION
3	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
4	ANGEL EYES
5	CITY OF SIN
6	MILA

SOON TO OPEN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	DRIVEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	ALONG CAME SPIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	AMORSEKO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ONSEHAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SENSUAL / SECRET GAMES
ODEON	- DRIVEN
ODEON-2	ALONG CAME SPIDER
ROBEN	AMORSEKO
TANDEM-1	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
TANDEM-2	PANINDA
TIMES	15 MIUTES / ATTACK FORCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	AMORSEKO
REMAR	AMORSEKO
REMAR-2	PANINDA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-2	FINAL FANTASY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-6	ONSEHAN
CINEMA-7	PANINDA
CINEMA-8	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DRIVEN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	ALONG CAME SPIDER
CINEMA-14	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-3	DRIVEN
CINEMA-4	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-5	DR. DOOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-6	SWORD FISH
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	SPOT
CINEMA-2	COLLEGE GIRL
CINEMA-4	MULATA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	TOO MUCH FLESH
CINEMA-2	VALENTINE
CINEMA-4	UHAW NA HATOP

LEE

Soprano debuts

SOPRANO Elaine Lim Lee will make her orchestral debut at the Philamlife Theater on Saturday, July 14.

Lee will sing operatic arias, Broadway and kundiman songs.

With a nature in the arts, Lee's interest extends to graphic design. Her love for opera becomes evident when she's performing. Lee has the qualities of being a first-rate performer as she becomes in tune with her vocal techniques and discipline.

Sharing the stage with her is the Manila Festival Orchestra.

What . . .

(From page A25)

each other again

We will never love
each other again
It's over, it's over
It's over, over,over
Never again

World-class

ROBINSON'S Movieworld-Galleria is now open with 10 brand new cinemas, fully equipped with the best in digital sound and projection technologies. The cineplex will still occupy the fourth level of the mall, which also underwent a major redevelopment.

Moviegoers and mallers alike can experience the latest in THX, SDDS, DTS, Dolby and Dolby Digital EX sound technologies. The multi-million-peso renovation and improvements also include 5,000 new fabric-upholstered seats, a spacious and especially themed lobby with a video wall in the center.

"Moviegoers will have a chance to preview the now-showing movies or catch a glimpse of the soon-to-watch-movies," says **Leo F. Hernandez**, Robinson's Movieworld's operator. They will soon offer patrons amenities and gimmicks such as computerized ticketing systems, reserved seats and Internet ticket reservations, loyalty cards and special prepaid cinema cards.

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole 2000@yahoo.com*

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FINAL FANTASY:
The Spirits Within
(PG-13 RT - 1:46)
Fantasy-Action-Science Fiction-Adventure

Starring:
Ming-Na Wen
James Woods
Ving Rhames
Steve Buscemi
Donald Sutherland

July 12 - Thursday
6:00 PM - Final Fantasy
8:20 PM - Final Fantasy
10:40 PM - Final Fantasy

UPCOMING MOVIES AT LOUIE'S THX:
JURASIC PARK III
Bridgit Jones Diary
Moulin Rouge

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Litmus test

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

BEFORE "Pangako, Ikaw Lang" finally opened its run last week, some movie people were worried that the film's box-office prospects would be adversely affected by the fact that its male lead, **Aga Muhlach**, had just gotten married.

The film is a romantic comedy, and you know how film fans are in this country, they like to fantasize that a romantic movie's male and female stars are "that way" in real life with each other. Sneer at them all you want for being so simplistic, but that's the way they are.

So, if Aga is now married to **Charlene**, where does that leave Aga's costar, **Regine Velasquez**? They had great "chemistry" in the last movie they made, but Aga was single then. Now that his heart belongs to Charlene, what will happen to all that romantic chemistry?

The movie's prospects looked so vague that one of the thrusts of its publicity, campaign was to insist that the chemistry between the stars was still there.

Despite those passionate avowals, however, the people involved in the production were worried that at least some of Aga's female fans wouldn't "support" him this time around, because he was no longer "available," and thus no longer "fantasize-able."

So, when "Pangako, Ikaw Lang" was about to open, the movie industry saw it as a "litmus test" that would measure how much local moviegoers have grown up in the past few years.

If the film did poorly, it would confirm local viewers' inability or unwillingness to distinguish an actor's performance from his personal characteristics and circumstances. But, if the movie clicked with viewers, it would mean that they no longer childishly required an actor to suit his personal life to their cinematic preferences or fantasies.

Well, the film opened strongly on Wednesday and it continues to click with movie fans, so it looks like the audience for romantic films has grown up.

Viewers no longer require their screen idols to remain single to affirm their romantic filmic illusions. And movie fans now realize that the only thing their favorite stars owe them is a good performance.

Well, at last!

Movie trivia

WOULD you believe? Madcap comedienne **Weille Ball** was kicked out of drama school for being too shy!

The role of Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz" (1939) was supposed to have been played by **Shirley Temple**. But Temple's studio (20th Century-Fox) asked for too much money from MGM, so **Judy Garland** got the part.

Judy Garland's daughter, **Liza Minnelli**, made her film acting debut when she was just two-and-a-half years old, in "The Good Old Summertime" (1946).

Prince **Rainier** has banned all of **Grace Kelly**'s movies from being shown in Monaco.

Iraq banned karate films in 1979.

Romania banned Mickey Mouse movies in 1935 because the animated character was thought to be frightening to children.

Humphrey Bogart's lisp was the result of an injury he received during World War II. While his ship was being bombed, a splinter hit his upper lip, rendering it paralyzed.

Robert Mitchum was once confined to a chain gang for seven days.

Gene Hackman and **Dustin Hoffman** were voted least likely to succeed by their classmates at the Playhouse Acting School!

Bob Hope was once a boxer. He fought under the name of Packy East.

Before he became a movie star, comedian **W.C. Fields** made his living as a professional drowner in Atlantic City: A concession stand owner would send him into the ocean, where he would pretend to drown.

While someone rescued and started to revive him on the beach, a crowd would gather and the concessionaire would sell snacks and soft drinks to the curious onlookers!

What Larusso's hit means

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I MUST have been a Frenchwoman in a previous life because I'm obsessed with things French.

As a linguistics major in UP Diliman, I took up French extensively and I've been fortunate enough to soak myself in French culture when I lived and studied in Paris one summer with my cousin **Kara**.

On Saturday, July 14, is France's independence day (Fete de la Bastille). Anyone familiar with French history will agree that the revolution against royalty in 1789 is somewhat similar to our Edsa People Power. I'm no historian so I'd rather not go into the details. Instead I thought of sharing with you my translation of Larusso's famous song "*On Ne S'aimera Plus Jamais*" (thanks to the tres charmant couple **Laurent** and **Aileen Lamasuta** of Café Provencal for checking my translation). For quite sometime, it was No. 1 in the Billboard charts.

Bands and singers in town have their own versions of the song. Stars dance to it on TV. DJs play it over and over again. It's also one of the most popular cell phone ring tones.

Funny thing is, not everyone knows what it exactly means. Hopefully my translation will help singers give justice to the song instead of just mouthing the lyrics.

Larusso's hit is actually a goodbye song. The happy tone belies the sad message, very much like separating lovers trying to keep up a brave front. As the French (or frog" as they are fondly referred to in Europe) say, *laissez le bon temps rouler* (Let the good times roll)!

We Will Never Love Each Other Again

(*On ne S'aimera Plus Jamais*)

This is a literal translation. If you want me to print English lyrics that can be sung to the beat of the original French, please e-mail me.

We will never love each other again
Of the same love
End of ifs and buts
End of the line

We can turn it the way we want it
You and me. We made each other unhappy

We will never love each other again
Of the same love
To live in excuses and regrets
Let's cut it short
What good is fighting and silence?
Let's embrace each other and good luck

We will never love each other again
Of the same love
We don't have gestures and words left
No more illusions
And all this is lost instantly
Without reason

This love that made us both afraid
Will never have its final hour.
When we stop believing
There's no more love
It's the end of the story
It's over, it's over.
I would have wanted to forget about everything
I only manage to forgive you.
I will cherish your smile
And our beautiful memories
I will cherish your smile
And then I have to go
We will never love

WHAT/ A24

Final Fantasy

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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ALONG CAME A SPIDER - P 13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	ATLANTIS - GP 11:45, 1:45, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	DRIVEN - P 13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
FINAL FANTASY - GP 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	DR. DOOLITTLE 2 - GP 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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Starring

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DANICA SOTTO as Dinna
MAXENE MAGALONA as Donna
and ISABELLA as Duday

Bahagi ng pinakamatinding primetime sa balat ng telebisyon...

DOS POR DOS NG GMA

Lu-fu II	DRAGONBALL Z ALL NEW EPISODES	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin	Monica Brava
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At ang premiere ng **Daddy Di Do Du 8:30**

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OPENS JULY 18 (Wed.)
Art Film

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RIDE WITH THE DEVIL

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Critically Acclaimed Director of
"CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"
RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
A Film by ANG LEE

IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH,
YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY...
YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.

SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT

Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.

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- Buy an Ericsson A2618 or Talk 'N Text items and get a chance to win on-the-spot!

PLAY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

Buy an Ericsson A2618 or Talk 'N Text items and play for prizes!

For the Metro Manila, Cavite, Pampanga and Iloilo Promo

1. Promo applies only to Talk 'N Text selling booths and TSI outlets in the following SM Malls: SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City North EDSA, SM City Fairview, SM City Bacoor, SM City Manila, SM Pampanga and SM Iloilo.
2. Each purchase of an Ericsson A2618 unit from the participating Talk 'N Text selling booths and TSI outlets entitles the buyer to a free Ericsson pouch and a chance to pick a stub from the prize bowl. The stub may have a corresponding instant prize. The prize indicated in the stub will be given on the spot.

   Prizes include handsfree kits, snap-on covers, Tomb Raider shirts and Tomb Raider cassette tapes.
3. Each purchase of the ff. Talk 'N Text merchandise gives the customer the chance to win instant prizes:

   300 peso pre-paid card - 1 chance to pick a prize
   500 peso pre-paid card - 1 chance to pick a prize
   1000 peso pre-paid card - 2 chances to pick a prize

   The stub may have a corresponding instant prize.
   Prizes include Talk 'N Text caps, Talk 'N Text sling bags and Talk 'N Text keychains.
4. Individuals who swap their non-SMART SIM get one (1) Talk 'N Text sling bag.
5. Promo period starts on June 15, 2001 and ends on July 15, 2001.
6. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
7. All employees of Pilipino Telephone Corporation, Ericsson and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.

Now's the best time to buy your Ericsson A2618 for only P3,990!

For the Cebu promo:

1. Promo applies only to the Talk 'N Text selling booth and TSI outlet in SM Cebu.
2. Each purchase of an Ericsson A2618 unit from participating Talk 'N Text selling booth and TSI outlet entitles the buyer to a free Ericsson pouch, a chance to pick a stub from the prize bowl, and 4 game tickets.

   Prizes include handsfree kits, snap-on covers, Tomb Raider shirts and Tomb Raider cassette tapes.
3. Each purchase of the ff. Talk 'N Text merchandise entitles the customer to pick a stub from the instant prize bowl. The stub may or may not have a corresponding instant prize. The purchase also entitles the customer to a corresponding number of game tickets:

   300 peso pre-paid card - 2 game tickets
   500 peso pre-paid card - 2 game tickets
   1000 peso pre-paid card - 4 game tickets

   Prizes include Talk 'N Text caps, Talk 'N Text sling bags and Talk 'N Text keychains.
4. Individuals who swap their non-SMART SIM get one (1) Talk 'N Text sling bag and 4 game tickets.
5. Each game ticket entitles the customer to participate in a single round at the Inflatable Obstacle Course. Within the course is a Tomb Raider Treasure Chest where players can get free Talk 'N Text keychains.
6. The player who finishes the course first can pick another instant prize from the prize bowl.

   Instant prizes include Tomb Raider shirts, Tomb Raider cassette tapes, Talk 'N Text slings bags, Talk 'N Text keychains and Talk 'N Text caps. The prize indicated in the stub will be given on the spot.
7. A specific time will be set for the course. If a contestant beats the specified time, he gets the chance to pick another prize from the instant prize bowl.
8. Promo period starts on June 18, 2001 and ends on July 2, 2001.
9. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. All employees of Pilipino Telephone Corporation, Ericsson and their advertising agencies, and relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0827. Series of 2001.

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

ENGINE OIL
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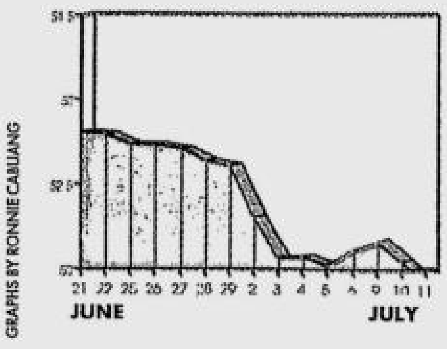
HONDA

Peso falters; BSP rules out rate cut

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱53.065 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 11, 2001

¥125.08 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 125.08 as of 5 p.m., July 11, 2001

GOLD:$266.30/266.80
per ounce Hong Kong, July 11, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower

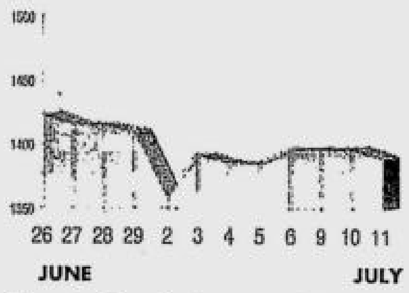
SHARES finished lower yesterday, pressured by the weak peso and losses on Wall Street, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 7.56 points, or 0.5 percent, at 1,390.10, adding to a 0.6-percent loss Tuesday.

Volume totaled 567.07 million shares worth P283.84 million from Tuesday's 320 million valued at P447 million.

"Investors are adopting a cautious stance due to the currency volatility," said A&A Securities analyst Don Malabanan. *AP*

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO again breached the 53-to-$1 mark and shed another five centavos yesterday to close at 53.065, prompting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to rule out any adjustment in its key policy rates when its policy-making Monetary Board meets today.

"Most likely, we will keep rates unchanged as we see no reason to bring our overnight rates up or down," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said after the peso tumbled to its lowest closing level under the Macapagal administration.

The central bank's overnight borrowing and lending rates stand at 9 percent and 11.25 percent.

Buenaventura explained that the peso's continued weakness was not interest-rate related, which means there has been no sign that people were borrowing money from the banks at a low interest rate and use the funds to speculate against the peso.

"Again, this is still a short-term, temporary imbalance because it is the time of the year when imports are coming in and also the time to settle dollar obligations," the central bank chief said.

A week ago, the peso slid to a low of 53.10 to $1 but aggressive intervention by the Bangko Sentral last Wednesday enabled the peso to close at 52.93.

A trader from a foreign bank said the central bank sold "some dollars" in the market yesterday but that was not enough to influence the exchange rate. Total transactions at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $76.7 million.

The peso opened at a high of 52.95 to $1 and dropped to 53.07 during mid-day trading.

"I think it would still weaken by another five to 10 centavos today because the sentiment against the peso has not been addressed. The market is still waiting for the bold measures that the President said she would initiate (this week)," a trader from another foreign bank said.

The trader explained that the sour outlook of the International Monetary Fund on the Philippine economy as well as projections that the peso would hit 55-60 to a dollar in the coming months only dampened the public's sentiments.

At the same time, companies with dollar demand still avoided the BSP's dollar forward offer. Traders said the currency risk protection program was tedious and expensive.

As companies continue to accumulate dollars to settle their maturing obligations, dollar inflow remains constrained. Buenaventura said July is usually a period of low dollar remittance.

"I think we should see signs of more inflow in the next two months from overseas workers as well as from borrowings and investments," he said.

Buenaventura insisted that the government must solve the peace-and-order problem before the peso would completely recover and get back to its normal spreads over regional currencies like the Thai baht.

San Miguel, RFM confirm Cosmos buyout talks

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage conglomerates RFM Corp. and San Miguel Corp. yesterday confirmed negotiations on the sale of the former's 85-percent stake in profitable soft drink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp.

RFM and SMC submitted separate disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday in reaction to an INQUIRER article published Tuesday that they were nearing a deal on the sale of Cosmos for at least P14.5 billion.

Share prices of RFM and Cosmos rose by another 9.7 percent and 2 percent, respectively, to close at P2.08 and P4.95.

SMC said in its disclosure: "The company is in discussions with RFM for the acquisition of RFM's entire stake in (Cosmos). No agreements have been reached, whether as to price structure or other details."

RFM, for its part, said it continued to be in discussions with potential investors in Cosmos but also stressed that no deal had been reached yet.

Cosmos is the second biggest soft drink bottler in the Philippines next to Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., which was recently reacquired by SMC. The possible acquisition of Cosmos by SMC would further strengthen CCBPI's dominant market share in the soft drink segment.

On the other hand, Pepsico's offer was to come in as a minority investor and then help Cosmos launch a takeover bid for the local Pepsi licensee, Pepsi Cola Products Philippines Inc.

Catering to the lower-end market segment, Cosmos' net income surged by 43 percent year-on-year to P211 million in the first quarter of the year on the back of a 28-percent improvement in net sales to P1.5 billion.

Vickers Ballas associate director for sales Eric Sta. Ana said the sale of Cosmos to SMC was expected to pave the way for the backdoor listing of CCBPI.

The sale of its stake in Cosmos would enable RFM to wipe out its debts and raise excess cash.

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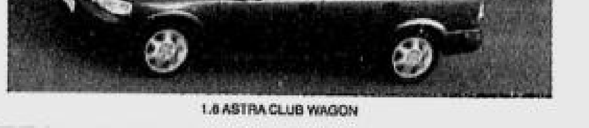

1.6 ASTRA CLUB WAGON

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Credit berating agency

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

INTERNATIONAL finance intrigues me. It must be a business more complex than the mechanics of how to wear those huge loose jeans properly.

For the life of me, really, I cannot figure out how credit rating agencies abroad can come up with exact opposite opinions on the same country.

That, in our case, even perhaps including the "suspected" Filipino players of Red Bull in the PBA, is none other than the Philippines.

As you know, anyway, the credit rating agency in Japan, known officially in English as the Japanese Credit Rating Agency, rated the Philippines as "stable."

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho thinks it's a good idea. As bill collectors run after me as if I was a plunderer myself, I can only wish for a similar rating.

In comparison, anyway, two credit rating companies in the United States, namely, Standard & Poor and Moody's, gave our country a "negative" mark.

In the intriguing game of international finance, that's just a nice way to say that any lender has permission to charge us an arm and a leg, plus a percentage of the soul.

* * *

NATURALLY, as finance secretary in charge of, ahh, finance, Camacho does not like the suspiciously similar opinion of those two US credit berating companies.

Do you think Camacho thinks those two companies only copy from each other? And do their parents get called, or do they get expelled right away?

This is the economic wiz kid of this cute administration who's talking here, mind you. He already earned the respect of local business, although he is just a kid.

Imagine, he accepted a government job on starvation pay! This wiz kid used to harvest millions of pesos in the intriguing business of . . . well, international finance.

* * *

BEING at the other side of the money fence now, Camacho unabashedly sides with the Japanese credit rating agency. He says on record that it is an "unbiased" rating.

Meaning, only, it's much better for Camacho than the separate but seemingly cloned opinions of the US companies. A good rating makes his job easier.

I just don't know how far foreign lenders will agree with him. Today, the financial system in Japan is not exactly known for being stable.

Its banking system was shaken by huge bad loans given through unsound lending practices. Its credit rating is not exactly a role model for kids and wiz kids alike.

* * *

WHICH brings me to Rule No. 3 in the complex business of international finance. And that is, never wear brown shoes with blue pants. No, it's not that!

The rule says that the best time to borrow money is when you really do not need money. I hope it clears up a lot of confusion.

It's the only time you can get good interest rates, dummy! Why, you may ask, should one borrow money, when one already has a lot of money? It's simple.

It's because one can get good interest rates on loans which one does not need, silly! It's one very well kept secret in the complex business of international finance.

That's why, it's easy for everybody to know when the government wants to borrow abroad. Our credit rating is downgraded pronto. It's as sure a sign as any.

Henceforth, thanks to the rating, the banks can do everything they can to help our government by licensing themselves to kill us with high interest charges.

What bad credit ratings tell us is, simply, just because we really need the money, it does not mean we should borrow, since we must pay high rates.

What do we do now? Maybe we should just stop paying all our existing foreign debts. Either way we're f...ed. Ah, *basta*, it's a complex business, this finance!

* * *

NOTICE how the Palace is not admitting that Gloriaetta is backing Sen. Franklin Drilon for the Senate presidency openly. Notice also that the Palace is not denying her preference for Drilon entirely.

What's up, ketsup? Word is, it all has something to do with 2004. It's just three years from now. Hint: runningmate!

But Gloriaetta cannot endorse Drilon publicly, because she and her political handlers know very well that they will surely get it from the opposition.

Already, the LDP senators, who are backing Sen. Edgardo Angara, of course, are making noises about Palace meddling in Senate affairs. This has never been done before.

It was not even done by the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. Imagine that?

* * *

AND so what if the Senate President is a member of the opposition? The same thing happened during the time of Kuya Eddie.

At that time, remember, the same LDP, which used to be the party in power, nearly monopolized the Senate. Yet the Kuya still got what he wanted.

For no matter what you say about certain semi-literate senators, the Senate can always deliver when it comes to important legislation. It is called critical collaboration. Down here, we know it as sleeping with the enemy.

In the Angara camp, anyway, they are saying they have the numbers. They are confident the winner will be their chicken. *Manok, ba, manok?*

If that happens, the fractious PPC in the Senate can only thank the backing of Gloriaetta for Drilon, which is not admitted openly nor denied entirely.

Supposedly, Angara is assured of 12 votes, eight from the LDP, plus four from the non-LDP but formerly allied with Wrist Band.

Angara therefore only needs one more to repeat as Senate President. The vote is expected to come from a senator from the south who just cannot take Gloriaetta's choice.

GE Capital sells local unit to ATR

GE Capital International Holdings Corp. (GEC) of the US yesterday said it was selling its Philippine subsidiary, GE Life Insurance Co. Inc., to local investment house and securities brokerage group, ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. (ATR).

GEC, in a statement issued yesterday, said the official agreement with ATR would be finalized this month. The company will adopt the name ATR Professional Life Assurance Corp. upon closing of the agreement.

Under the agreement, ATR and its affiliate, The Professional Group Plans (TPG), will own GE Life Insurance. ATR Professional Life Assurance will run as a standalone business. The new owners will retain all existing GE Life Insurance employees.

With the acquisition of GE Life, ATR and TPG, a leader in selling pre-need pension and academic plans in the Philippines, will be able to offer life insurance and mortgage loan products to its clients. The acquisition and the change of the company's name have been approved recently by the Office of the Insurance Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission. As of December 2000, GE Life's statutory capital, admitted assets and premium income were reported at P329 million, P469 million and P187 million, respectively.

Even with the change in ownership, ATR Professional Life Assurance will continue to offer service levels that reflect strength, reliability and quality. GE is committed to be a market leader in the sectors in which it operates. The decision to sell GE Life Insurance Co. Inc. (not affiliated with GE Life in the United Kingdom) reflects this strategy.

ATR was established in 1993 as the Philippine arm of the Hong Kong-based Peregrine group. It was acquired in 1998 by local investment bankers Ramon Arnaiz, Manuel Tordesillas and Lorenzo Roxas, together with a US-based private equity fund Gilbert Global Equity Partners Inc. In the same year, Kim Eng Holdings Ltd., a Singapore-based stockbrokerage group, took a 43.03-percent stake in the company. In 2000, ATR ranked as the largest independent investment house in the country in terms of capital, with shareholders' funds in excess of P1 billion.

The other ATR shareholders are the Gokongwei Group, A. Soriano Corp., National Book Store, Marsman-Drysdale and Loida Nicolas-Lewis.

ATR is also a major shareholder of TPG, which has 90 branches serving over 80,000 pre-need planholders in the Philippines.

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2. The company must have been in operation for a minimum of 5 years. (For Most Promising Retailer, minimum of 2 years)
3. The company must be registered with the DTI/SEC/BIR.

CATEGORIES

- FULL LINE DEPARTMENT STORE
- CATEGORY SPECIALIST
  - *Fashion*
  - *Non-Fashion*
- MEDIUM SCALE *
- SMALL SCALE *
- MOST PROMISING RETAILER

* *These categories are based on Asset Size: Medium - P15M - P99M; Small - P15M and below.*

NOMINATION PROCESS

Any organization, company, or individual may nominate a retailer for the search. Nomination forms are available at the PRA or DTI Office nearest you.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The nominee will be requested to submit the following documents to qualify for the screening process

- Company Profile
- Copy of registration papers with DTI/SEC/BIR
- Latest Audited Financial Statement
- Duly accomplished Application Form

All forms and pertinent documents may be submitted to PRA or any DTI regional office. Only duly accomplished application forms with complete supporting documents will be considered.

Deadline of Nominations: JULY 14, 2001

For more information, please contact:

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Look for : Ms. Evelyn Balmeo Salire, Secretary General

DTI-BUREAU OF DOMESTIC TRADE PROMOTION
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Tel.: 890-4855/890-4933/890-4917 • Fax No.: 890-4858
E-mail: bdtp@dti.gov.ph
Look for Ms. Rhodora Leano, Director

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DISCLOSURES

COSMOS Bottling Corp. said it would pay stockholders of record as of July 11 a quarterly cash dividend of P0.0524 per preferred share on July 25.

* * *

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. declared a P0.16 per share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of July 27.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. clarified that although the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had approved its planned foreign bond float, the company does not anticipate carrying out the issuance until later this year.

* * *

ISLAND Information & Technology Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 2, 2 p.m. at the Casino Español de Manila in Malate. Only stockholders of record as of July 5 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

VULCAN Industrial and Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 27, 10 a.m. at the 9/F Quad Alpha Centrum Building in Mandaluyong City. Only stockholders of record as of June 20 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 25, 9 a.m. at the 4/F Universal Business Club in Equitable Bank Building, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of June 11 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank confirmed it was planning to sell its stake in the Cojuangco-run **Bank of Commerce.**

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, July 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70.5	71	70.5	71	101,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	39,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	208	210	205	205	33,490
Philippine National Bank	43.5	43.5	43	43	2,400
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	28.5	29	11,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	23,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	400,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	255	255	255	255	40
Manulife Financial Corp.	1420	1420	1420	1420	540
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1235	1235	1230	1235	17,360
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	3,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.52	1,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	675	670	670	440
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.037	0.038	5,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.5	4.1	3.5	4.1	348,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	700	695	695	55,900
Ivantage Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	150,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.036	0.036	0.033	0.035	82,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	38	38	37.5	38	7,300
Manila Electric Co. B	51	51	49.5	49.5	814,000
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.02	2.02	3,057,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	3,328,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.44	0.5	0.44	0.5	1,300,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	24,070,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	70,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	135,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.95	5	4.85	4.95	3,428,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	170,000
RFM Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.08	2.08	9,193,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41.5	41.5	26,000
San Miguel Corp. B	47.5	48	47.5	47.5	381,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.85	0.85	0.82	0.82	340,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.84	20,000
Ayala Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	183,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.48	1.44	1.48	272,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.12	716,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.76	1.78	7,327,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	900,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.125	0.125	3,470,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.044	3,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	80,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30	30.5	29.5	30	404,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.06	1.2	1.06	1.2	671,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	32,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.46	180,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	440,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	920,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Music Corp.	1.86	2.04	1.86	1.92	1,203,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	500,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	60,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.48	2,130,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	1,000,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	46,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40	40	40	53,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	43,300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	84,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.023	0.023	0.021	0.022	50,800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	1,487,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,260,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,220,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	12,540,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.12	432,000
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	2,914,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.3	0.46	0.3	0.46	270,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	11,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	8,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	30,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.033	0.033	0.03	0.032	37,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	780,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	28,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.02	67,900,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	1,120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	1,710,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	18,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0046	0.0042	0.0046	36,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	8,600,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	632,430	38,270,860.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	295,761,740	208,487,755.00
PRO	21,743,000	31,833,780.00
Mining	181,990,000	4,334,300.00
OIL	66,410,000	710,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	566,537,170	283,637,195.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	567.36	DOWN 0.99
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,972.60	DOWN 10.73
PRO	526.89	DOWN 0.56
Mining	1,405.81	UP 7.22
OIL	1.61	UP 0.05
All Shares Index	791.53	UP 0.26
Composite	1,390.10	DOWN 7.56

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 41; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 106; NO. OF TRADES: 2,425

CURRENCIES

July 11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.168361	1.000000	52.9100
Japan	Yen	0.009320	0.007977	0.4221
United Kingdom	Pound	1.649959	1.412200	74.7195
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.149793	0.128208	6.7835
Switzerland	Franc	0.657343	0.562620	29.7682
Canada	Dollar	0.768659	0.657895	34.8092
Singapore	Dollar	0.636709	0.544959	28.8338
Australia	Dollar	0.596407	0.510465	27.0087
Bahrain	Dinar	3.099265	2.652661	140.3523
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.363996	0.311546	16.4839
Brunei	Dollar	0.637578	0.545703	28.8731
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000088	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025696	0.021993	1.1636
UAE	Dirham	0.318181	0.272331	14.4090
Korea	Won	0.000902	0.000772	0.0408
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.855900	45.2857
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.437615	23.1542
France	Franc	0.152450	0.130481	6.9037
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.388390	20.5497
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062201	3.2911
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021217	1.1226
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000442	0.0234
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.143952	7.6165
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004269	0.2259
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005144	0.2722
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.021217	1.1226
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.086769	57.5009

Top firms question unilateral hike in local shipping rates

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DISTRIBUTION Management Association of the Philippines, whose members are among the country's top 100 corporations, is worried that the deregulation of the shipping industry without safety nets may lead to an indiscriminate increase in freight rates by shipping lines.

DMAP is specifically questioning the Maritime Industry Authority's decision to approve Memorandum Circular 153 in December 1999.

The memorandum allowed owners of shipping companies to unilaterally increase domestic maritime shipping rates.

MC 153 was used as basis for a 20-percent rate hike sought by the Domestic Shipowners Association led by William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. and Sulpicio Lines Inc.

DMAP, which filed a case contesting the rate hike before the Court of Appeals, claimed that the adjustment would exceed the allowable 12-percent return-on-rate base.

DMAP said under the memorandum, which was meant to enhance the government's deregulation policy, Marina would divest itself of its power to regulate or validate freight rate adjustments, and the mandatory public hearing on rate-setting was abolished.

DMAP noted that MC 153's precursor, Memorandum Circular 117, had a provision creating a Domestic Shipping Consultative Council that would review all proposed shipping rate hikes.

When the ship-owners and operators applied for a 20-percent rate hike in November last year, DMAP promptly demanded for a copy of the shipping lines' financial statements to justify their proposed adjustments and asked Marina's opinion.

Last month, however, Marina said the issue of a correct and reasonable freight adjustment was not for the government to decide. Market competition would determine them, it said.

DMAP said this was the reason it filed a case seeking a temporary restraining order against the rate hike.

In its petition, DMAP stressed the rate hike was illegal and unconstitutional. It warned that if the shipping lines were allowed to increase unilaterally their rates, "they would be able to increase rates with impunity to the detriment of the public."

Ever seen resuming normal operations

By Doris C. Dumlao

EVER-GOTESCO Resources and Holdings Inc. yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange it would resume normal operations should the court sustain its ruling to reopen its banking unit, Orient Commercial Banking Corp.

The Court of Appeals lifted last month an attachment order issued in January last year by a lower court, when the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas went after the assets of Orient Bank owner Jose Go.

The BSP and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. shut down Orient Bank in October 1998 after the bank collapsed under the weight of its bad loans.

Regulators found out that P5.4 billion out of Orient Bank's P7.1 billion in bad loans were siphoned off by Go's companies in gross violation of the limits of loans a bank could give to its directors, officers, stockholders and related interests.

Go was sued for using dummies to get the loans.

The Bangko Sentral has appealed the Court of Appeals' order to lift an attachment order covering Orient Bank.

In a disclosure, Ever-Gotesco said it would resume normal operations should the Supreme Court junk the central bank's appeal.

Ever-Gotesco defaulted on P1.27 billion worth of debts in 1998 and had since faced foreclosure proceedings initiated by its creditors.

The total liabilities of the whole Ever-Gotesco group, however, were then estimated at P16 billion, although some had since been settled through debt-for-asset swap arrangements.

Finance chief defends target, says gov't not aiming too high

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho defended yesterday the Macapagal administration's economic growth target this year following criticisms from the International Monetary Fund and two banks that the government was aiming too high.

"Right now, the GDP (gross domestic product) target is 3.3 to 3.8 percent and it has not been suggested within the economic team that we revise our target again. Now, if others say growth would be lower, then that is their opinion," Camacho said.

"Right now, we are trying our best to meet the targets," he stressed.

"You cannot accuse this government of not being realistic because we are constantly reviewing our targets when we see fit. We are reviewing the deficit target to make sure the numbers would be achievable," he added.

The International Monetary Fund earlier said the Philippine economy faced an uncertain growth outlook amid weakening exports, strains in the banking system and a large budget deficit.

In a review of the country's economy—its first since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became president in January—the IMF forecast gross domestic product expanding 3 percent in 2001, with an improvement in domestic demand as the main driver. This is a downward revision of an earlier forecast of 3.3 percent.

The IMF acknowledged that Arroyo inherited a "challenging economic situation." She was swept to power on Jan. 20 following the ouster of Joseph Estrada, who faces corruption charges.

"The main downside risks stem from weakening global demand for electronics exports and the budget deficit, where higher-than-targeted domestic financing could put upward pressure on interest rates," the IMF said.

The government forecasts growth of at least 3.3 percent this year, but many private economists believe that is beyond its grasp. Growth in the first quarter slowed to 2.5 percent year-on-year from 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2000.

Deutsche Bank AG had revised downward its GDP growth forecast for the Philippines to 1.8 percent. Land Bank of the Philippines also predicted that the government was unlikely to hit its target, saying a more likely target was between 2.6 and 3 percent.

PNR secures ₱204M to pay rail workers

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Railways' financial woes are over—at least for now.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said yesterday the Department of Budget and Management was set to release some P204 million in cash advance for the sale of some 1,500 hectares owned by PNR.

PNR general manager Jose Ma. Sarasola told the INQUIRER that he had already discussed with Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chief Mike Defensor a plan to sell PNR real estate to squatter families through a land distribution program.

"If we can't remove the squatters from PNR land, we might as well sell the land to them since they really want to own the land," he said.

Sarasola said the National Housing Authority had already met with families squatting on PNR properties who said they were willing to buy the land they were occupying but insisted on a term of at least 30 years.

"The government may give the PNR a cash advance of P700 million or P300 million for this to help us pay for the employees' salary differentials," he said.

PNR owes its employees some P204 million in backwages. The agency also has an outstanding loan of around P272 million in unpaid premiums to the Government Service Insurance System.

"But the national government has already absorbed this, so the PNR is free from any financial obligations to the GSIS as of this time," Sarasola said.

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Gov't seen tapping future Pagcor income

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo agreed to plans to securitize or borrow funds using future earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

"The President agrees that we could commit future revenues to build our present revenue position," Camacho told reporters.

He said Ms Macapagal had ruled out a plan to privatize Pagcor.

Camacho said he was studying three options on the securitization of Pagcor's earnings, but refused to say what these options were.

These options would allow the government to advance Pagcor's earnings in the coming years from an investment bank that, in turn, could issue bonds to raise money to cover for the government's needs.

Persons familiar with the matter said these could include a full securitization of Pagcor's earnings in the next seven years or a shorter-term borrowing involving part of the corporation's seven-year earnings.

A full securitization, one person said, was not acceptable to Ms Macapagal since a substantial portion of Pagcor's earnings go to the Presidential so-called social fund.

A borrowing backed by its earnings in the next seven years or the remaining life of its franchise could raise more than P100 billion to augment the state's coffers.

Metrobank asks SEC to scrap ASB rehab

By Elena R. Torrijos

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to junk a plan to rehabilitate the ASB group of companies.

In a petition filed on Monday, Metrobank asked the SEC to overturn a decision by a three-man panel created by the commission to examine and approve ASB's rehabilitation plan.

Metrobank, ASB's biggest creditor, reiterated arguments made by China Banking Corp. and United Coconut Planters Bank, which also appealed to overturn a decision clearing ASB's rehabilitation plan.

Metrobank said the plan approved by a panel led by SEC counsel Eugenio Reyes was "patently flawed."

"It runs roughshod with the basic principle that contractual mortgages are unaffected by corporate debt relief proceedings. From a civil law point of view, it effectively compels the parties to enter into contracts not freely agreed upon," it argued.

The bank also argued that ASB was no longer in a position to put its real estate development business on track and should be liquidated rather than rehabilitated.

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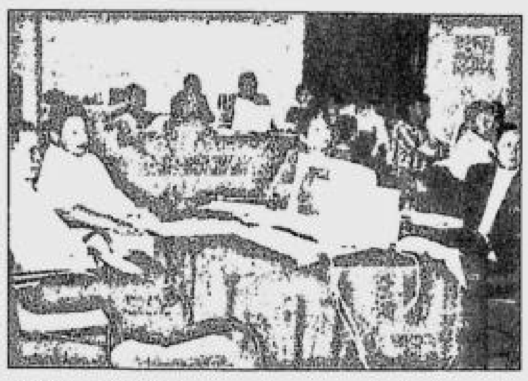
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Scorpion Massg 4372542

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L-BAHAY 712-16-92

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LIPAT BAHAY 824-1227

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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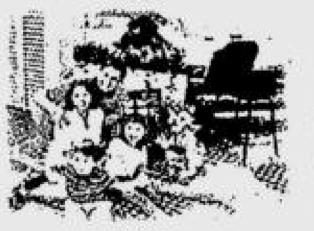
Celebrate Life
Create Happy Memories



Nestled in a prime site in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, Jubilee Villas is a spacious and refreshing exclusive private enclave of 35 townhomes, which offers a unique lifestyle you and your family can enjoy every day of the week.

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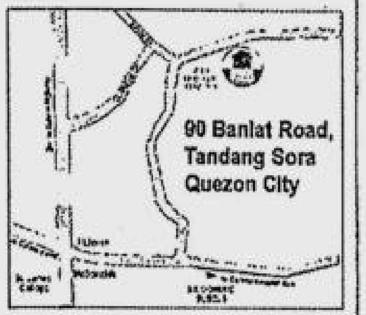
- exclusive community and security


90 Banlat Road,
Tandang Sora
Quezon City

FOR ANNOUNCEMENT PURPOSES

For inquiries, please call 818-2781 or 751-5472

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Suite 101 FCC Bldg. 119 Rada Street
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RIZAL

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3 LOTS 240 m2 per lot **Mega Heights Subdivision** P3,000 per square meter House and Lot 112 m2 P1.5M Batangas City Contact **CESAR 727-1270 local 2271 or 2353**

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QUEZON CITY

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CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term Rent'2'own9120647 9132224

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

SAN JUAN

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Makati-Olympia/BSA/PP1 Std-2BR 10T up 8114440

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QUEZON CITY

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Nr CASH & CARRY 551-9467

Nr SM CT a/c new 9271821

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98 PREGIO P345T 3303315

Besta P240T Neg.
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Pregio / Pride 0917-7950696

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CARS FOR RENT

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Billiard Table Marble Top Accept C.Card 23T 25T & 30T 781-9453

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BUYING ROLEX
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GOLD
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MISCELLANEOUS

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CONSULTANCY COMPANY is in need of the following:
General Manager (1)
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Must be experienced in financial consulting involving monetary management. Must possess excellent oral and written skills in at least 3 international languages.
Send resumé to:
Proex-1 Consultants, Inc.
Suite 106, 1182
Don Chino Roces Avenue
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DEALER/SALES REPS
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F-Escort 1277-05080 18-23

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•15 OFFICE PERSONNELS • In diff. position coll. grad./Lev. 18-28 yrs. old Interview until July 21 call Tel.# 854-8595 854-1166 • Look for Ms. Cruz

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DECSB Tch3-30053; 36320; Tch3-36215; 30201; 30050; Tch1 47948; 47637; 47673; 47658; 47994; 47998; 47645; 30312; 47985

DENTAL Assistant 9162923 6459392 Urgent Pasig

OFC STAFF 9134470 Joyce

OFC STAFF 9134470 JELLY

OFC STAFF 9134470 REY

•OFC STAFF*9134470 Ayna•

OFF. CLERK 713-6116 Let

OFF. STAFF 713-6116 Deng

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR. COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BINONDO MLA. BRING RESUME W /PICTURES NBI BIRTH CERT. & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 - 9:30 AM

SALES REPRESENTATIVE MARKETING GRADUATE CALL 879-2030

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Call 533-1814 • 717-2751

PUBLIC NOTICES

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RTW 4 Tiange Bazar 3738821

Work from home with Travel Opportunity Call 660-3109

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ENRIQUETA BARCELON-LIM was extra-judicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 228, Page No. 47, Book NO. XXI, Series of 2001, before Notary Public Manuel Sabado of Makati City.
(PDI-July 5, 12, 19, 2001).

Notice is hereby given that the estate & deposit accounts of the late MARIANO E. VILLALOBOS were extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 62, Page No. 14, Book No. 17, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Sabino G. Ramos, Las Pinas City (PDI-June 28,July 5&12,2001).

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of Stock Certificate #1823 issued by Capitol Hills Golf & Country Club, Inc. to Ms. Chuang Mying Hwa. If no contest is presented, new certificate will be issued.
Call 818-4234
(PDI-July 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS
The following stock certificate of Mr. JANGIN HO has been declared lost Orchard Golf & Country Club Cert # B0031
(PDI-July 12, 19 &26,2001)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425, 897-2535
(Telefax) 897-8425

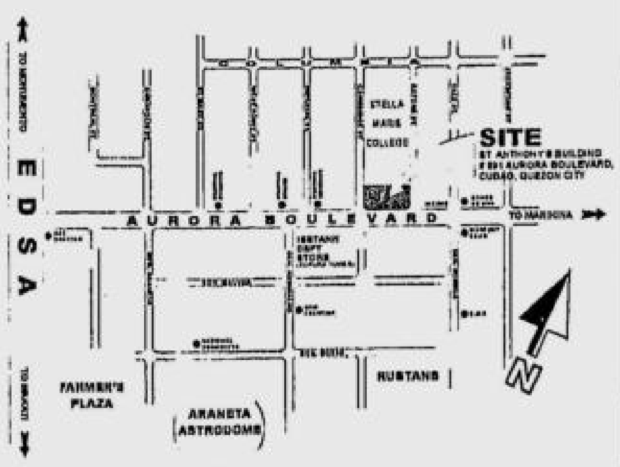
CUBAO
421-0343 (Aurora)
912-9008 to 11 (Ali Mall)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

INQUIRER
Classified Ads
Cubao branch
NOW
open in
Aurora Boulevard



Teens' solutions to the Earth's SOS.

Our natural environment is being destroyed. Mother Earth is sending out a frantic SOS. There a lot of things young people can do to help save Earth; one of which is using creativity to express their concern such as paint pictures and posters to spread the word. Or they can also express themselves in song, stories and plays to remind everyone of their duty to preserve the environment.

Young environmentalists can also put their natural networking abilities to good use. Texting is perfect in organizing a "Cleanup Day" in the neighborhood. Get the *barkada* to pick up litter in their area. This activity can even give rise to the competitive spirit. Form various cleanup teams and replant some areas with flowers, grass and trees. Trees help cut down carbon monoxide emissions and help clean the air. Besides, trees provide soothing shade from the sun. The team who does the best job wins a special prize.

With the mounting garbage problem, teens would also do well to start living a life ruled by the three Rs—reduce, reuse and recycle. Designate areas where one can drop off recyclable containers and materials. Teens can also start conserving water at home or at school. A single drip can save gallons of water.

Finally, go ride a bike instead of taking the scooter or car. This cuts down air pollution and smog, and does wonders for the health, too.

Spread the word. Teens really can make everyday an Earth Day.

APC sponsors Gameworld 2001

THE STAGE is set for the first major networking game tournament in the Philippines – Gameworld 2001 to be held July 12 and 13 at the Glorietta Activity Area. The event brings together some of the country's gaming wizards for a two-day extravaganza of exhibition and sportsmanship.

Supporting the Gameworld 2001 is world leading power and management solutions provider American Power Conversion (APC) as the event's official UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply). Its newly launched Back-UPS CS 500 will provide power support to all the PCs in the competitions.

The advanced features of the Back-UPS CS 500 assures players and spectators at the event of non-stop gaming action without worrying about the possible threats of power interruptions such as surges, sags and brownouts. Gaming competitions will include a 5-on-5 Counter Strike tournament and the Inno 3D Quake III Fragfest, a single player deathmatch competition.

CIM Gravid post-graduate course slated

THE DEPARTMENT of Medicine of the Delos Santos Medical Center will be holding its 9th Postgraduate Course on August 23 and 24 at the Quezon City Sports Complex entitled "CIM Gravid: Concept in Internal Medicine for the Gravid Patient."

The course, which is open to all general practitioners, internists, family physicians and obstetrics – will feature various internists who will discuss common medical problems encountered in pregnant women – with obstetricians as reactors.

For more information, call Dr. Freddie G. Peleo or Dr. Jose V. Yason III at 723-0041 to 54.

INQUIRER

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Eagles

Q. If the Philippine eagle is not the world's largest eagle, what is?

A. Slightly larger than the Philippine eagle is the harpy eagle of South America, which weighs about 4.8 kg (about 10.5 lb) and a wingspan of over 2 m (6.56 ft). Like the Philippine eagle, it is also in a struggle for survival. As an inhabitant of lowland virgin forests from southern Mexico to northern Argentina, the harpy eagle has become critically endangered with the ongoing loss of its habitat. It feeds principally on arboreal mammals such as monkeys, sloths, and opossums. Its back is slately black and its underparts are white, with a black band across the upper chest. Its pale gray head is crowned with a double crest which, when erected, gives the bird a somewhat owl-like appearance.

Ooops! The American bald eagle is not bald. It got its name from the characteristic slicked-down white feathers covering its head. The name *bald*, often thought to be a misnomer, does not imply a lack of feathers, but is derived from the obsolete Middle English word *balded*, meaning 'white' or 'having white fur or feathers,' which was still in common use when the English first settled in America. After encountering this unique American bird, they called it the *balded eagle*. However, after the word *balded* disappeared from everyday use, the name became transformed to the bald eagle.

For the Record. On average, blondes have some 140,000 hairs on their heads, brunettes about 108,000 and redheads 90,000.

WORD WATCH

Pilgarlic (pil gor lik) : a bald head that looks like peeled garlic.

PDI – July 12, 2001

PILAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

PILAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION will sell to the highest bidder various items:

ITEMS	QUANTITY	PRICE PER UNIT
Yamato Welding Machine (Japan)	5	Php 4,500.00
SM Driling Machine (China)	4	2,700.00
Dynamo Electric Motor (Taiwan)	1	6,000.00
Fumas Air Compressor	1	7,000.00
Cutting Saw Machines	1	6,000.00
Balancing Machine (China)	1	135,000.00
Enerpac Liner (USA)	1	3,000.00
One Bagger Mixer	1	4,000.00
Oxygen & Acetylene Cylinders	5	1,700.00
Steel Blender	1	800.00
Metal Stand	2	500.00
A Frame Steel Boom	1	800.00
Scaffolding	6	250.00
Pallatcy Steel	1	1,000.00
Wooden Cabinet	1	300.00
Clerical Table	3	300.00
Supervisor Table	1	500.00
Steel Rack	2	900.00
Steel Table	1	2,300.00
Clerical Chair	1	200.00

You are requested to see and inspect the different items for sale at PDC Compound, Rose Ave. cor. Mod 120, Pilar Village, Las Piñas City and submit your sealed bids on or before August 10, 2001, which bids shall be opened on **August 13, 2001**, at 2:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **JESUS M. SALMORIN**
Assistant Vice President
Property Management Department

(PDI - July 12, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

June 28, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar land development works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to prequalify and bid for the contract listed below:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (Php M.)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
Koronadal S/S Project Koronadal, South Cotabato	Land dev't. road, & drainage works	8.40	B	Medium A for roads

A. Eligibility Statement forms bid document/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project, and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set shall be received only from authorized representatives.

C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.

D. Deadline of submission of LOI/other documents is on July 23, 2001. All other subsequent activities will be announced through a bid bulletin.

E. The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI--July 12, 13 & 20, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama-Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting manufacturers/suppliers for the bidding of 1,500 sets of Glass Ionomer Dental Filing Materials for Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART) project in selected divisions/schools nationwide.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **July 12 to 24, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **July 24, 2001**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be **Aug. 8, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI – July 12 & 13, 2001)

Repubulika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2001-38

	Rebidding Date : July 24, 2001
PB010709-T3WG6360	CONSTRUCTION/ELECTRICAL HARDWARE & SUPPLIES (Tiles, Cement, Sand, Electrical Tape, Lamp Holder, etc.)
PB010709-T3JR6364	NITROGEN, Liquid, Refill only
PB010709-T3WG6366	FACEMILL HOLDER ACCESSORIES (Screw, Shim Screw, etc.) HAND TOOLS (Pliers, Cutter, Screwdriver Sets, Gloves, etc.)/ GRASS CUTTER
PB010709-T3JR6369	COMPRESSOR, Aircon, SD-508 Ordinary Grove, O-ring Type
PB010709-T3JR6370	SERVICES: Supply of Labor and Materials for the Rehabilitation & Relocation of Deepwell #2
PB010709-T3JR6371	SERVICES: Supply of Labor and Materials for the General Repair of Mazda Van E-2000, Model 1990
	**Bidding Date : July 31, 2001
2001-38-01	CONSTRUCTION/ELECTRICAL HARDWARE & SUPPLIES (Lumber, Plywood, Paint, Paint Thinner, Door Knob, Lamp/Starter Holder, Plug, etc.)
2001-38-02	ENGINE ASSEMBLY, Complete with Floor Shift 5 Speed Transmission & Transfer Case (4x4), 4D56 Turbo Diesel Series
2001-38-03	SERVICES: Supply and Installation of T1/E1 Cable & Terminal Accessories (Shielded Twisted Pair Cable, Terminal Blocks, Backmount Frames, Plugs, etc.)

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampeguita Rm. Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of **P50.00**, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory. **Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on **July 20, 2001**.

Bidding documents available on **July 12, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable**, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). **Last day of issuance of bidding documents **July 26, 2001**.

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM.** For inquiries, please call no. **921-2574**.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - July 12 & 13, 2001)

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 26 July 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave. Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
Metro Manila			
LRD-113A	EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City (fronting Clover Leaf Market and beside Nissan Showroom)	36,015 m² commercial/industrial lots (TCT N-171471, N-171472 N-171473, N-171475, N-171476) with buildings and improvements.	P 442,836,000.00
LRD-113B	Galas, Quezon City (bounded by Luskot, Serrano Laktaw and Pedro Paterno Sts.)	2,400 m² residential/industrial lots (TCT Nos. N-171474 & N-171477) with buildings and improvements.	P 25,000,000.00
VAB-91	Int. Calle Maytubig, San Rafael District, Pasay City	404.4 m² residential lot (TCT T-143002).	P 8,108,000.00
VAB-92	Int. Calle Maytubig, San Rafael District, Pasay City	398.3 m² residential lot (TCT T-143001).	P 7,966,000.00
VAB-93	Int. Calle Maytubig, San Rafael District, Pasay City	327.20 m² residential lot (TCT T-143000).	P 6,544,000.00
VCP-39	1304 Int. M. Naval St., Navotas	338 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. C-300082) with buildings and improvements.	P 585,000.00
MEE-145	Cor. of Road Lot 11 and 27, Congressional Model Subd., Camarin, Caloocan City	228 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 334416).	P 441,500.00
Bulacan			
VAB-94	Tadeo St., Poblacion, Bustos	2,999 m² residential/commercial lot (TCT 118053) with buildings and improvements.	P 13,167,000.00
Rizal			
LTY-141	Saturn St., Meteor Homes, Cupang, Antipolo City	410 m² residential lot (TCT No. 398264) with buildings and improvements.	P 1,089,700.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
VCP-53a	FCIE Compound, Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas Cavite	23 units various machinery and equipment for fabrication of bolts and nuts. Sale on per unit basis.	P 7,002.00 to P 1,269,714.00 per unit
LRD-140	Pinatubo Bricks Mfg. Compound Brgy. Estrada Capas, Tarlac	11 units various brick making machinery and equipment (in dismantled condition)	P 706,000.00

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V; and
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI -- July 12 & 13, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 911-6001 loc. 6592 / 911-6433

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 40MM GRENADE LAUNCHERS*** with an approved budget of ***Forty Three Million Seven Hundred Forty Thousand Pesos (P43,740,000.00)*** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***July 13, 2001*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***July 26, 2001*** at ***10:00 a.m.*** *(local time)* at the *Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on ***August 17, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.*** *(local time)* and followed by the Opening of Bids at ***1:00 p.m.*** at the *Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **LTGEN ROY A CIMATU AFP**
The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 12 & 13, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED SOUTH COTABATO COOPERATIVE BANK (Koronadal, South Cotabato), INC.

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, an intital payoff scheme is being adopted in the South Cotabato Cooperative Bank (Koronadal, South Cotabato), Inc. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from **July 13** to **August 2, 2001**, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   Settlement of insured deposits above P10,000.00 will be made and announced as soon as the examination of deposits is completed by PDIC.

2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposits such as Savings Passbook or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification documents (ID) bearing depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

3. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the last day (prescriptive date) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed South Cotabato Cooperative Bank (Koronadal, South Cotabato), Inc. is on **December 3, 2002.** After **December 3, 2002**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – July 12, 2001)

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IN MEMORY OF THE
25TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

LEONIDES S. VIRATA

22 April 1918 - 13 July 1976

Holy Masses will be offered on Friday, 13 July 2001
in the following churches:

CAVITE	
Our Lady of the Pillars Parish Cathedral of Imus - Imus, Cavite	6:30 AM
MAKATI	
AIM Chapel Paseo de Roxas, Makati	12:30 PM
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel Greenbelt, Makati	7:15 AM / 12:15 PM 5:45 PM
Shrine of the Sacred Heart San Antonio Village	6:00 AM / 6:30 AM 7:00 AM / 6:00 PM
Santuario de San Antonio Forbes, Makati	6:15 AM / 7:30 AM 12:15 PM / 6:00 PM
St. Alphonsus de Ligouri Church Magallanes Village	6:15 AM / 7:00 AM / 6:00 PM
MANILA	
Nuestra Señora de Guia (Ermita Church)	7:00 AM / 12:15 PM 6:00 PM
Malate Catholic Church MH Del Pilar, Malate	6:00 AM / 7:00 AM 6:00 PM
National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Redemptorist Road, Baclaran	6:45 AM / 9:30 AM 5:45 PM
Sta. Rita Church Quirino Avenue, Baclaran	6:00 AM/ 7:00 PM
SAN JUAN	
Mary the Queen Parish Madison Street, San Juan (beside Xavier School)	6:00 AM / 6:00 PM 7:00 AM

Please join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

"I have competed well;
I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4

Fe Hulleza
Vda. de Roldan

16 May 1914 – 10 July 2001
Jaro, Iloilo City

Her bereaved children **Ellen** and **Santiago Divinagracia, Estela** and **Robert Hewett, Eugenio** and **Susan Chipeco**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Jaro Cathedral Mortuary.

Interment will be at the Christ the King Memorial Park on Saturday, July 14, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Santa Maria Church, Iloilo City.

DOÑA CONCEPCION MENDIETA
VDA. DE CORRAL

Fallecio el 11 de Julio de 2001 despues de haber recibido los auxilios espirituales. Sus desconsolados, hijos Ramon Y Gay, hermanos Amparo Sangroniz (†), Purificacion Durall (†), Maria, Celestino (†), Angeles (†), Carlos, Luis (†), Jose Maria y Ma. Lourdes Aboitiz, hermanos politicos, sobrinos, nietos y demas parientes participan tan irreparable perdida y ruegan a sus amigos eleven a Dios una oracion por su alma.

Los restos se halla de cuerpo presente en La Capilla de la Virgen,
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

La misa de requiem en sufragio de su alma tendra lugar Viernes, 13 de Julio,
en La Iglesia del Santuario de San Antonio, a las diez de la mañana.
Acto seguido se llevara a cabo el entierro en la crypta de la Iglesia.

Se ruega no envien flores.

Our Dearly Beloved Nanay

ROMANA "ROMING"
T. BAUTISTA

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 10, 2001
at the age of 78.

Her loving sons **EDUARDO B. GO** and **RUBEN B. COSAY**; loving daughter **WU SIONGCO**; daughters-in-law; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Athena Room, Capitol Memorial Chapels, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on July 15, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Inocencio Robas Quillosa

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 10, 2001

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at their residence in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 14, 2001 in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya.

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"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

NAPOLEON CORTEZ NAVARRO

of Cabanatuan City and Paco, Manila

has joined his Creator on July 9, 2001
at the age of 78.

His wife **Patricia** (†); children **Danny & Ayie, Jun & Alvie, Rudy & Marife, Gertie & Deo Cay, Marivi & Anthony Naves, Mean & Jojo Nartia**, and **Kit**; his grandchildren **Clarisse, Danica, DJ, Bernadette, Mary Rose, Aljon, Cathy, Kimmy, Kevin, Patty, Patrick, Paolo, Rachel, Mark, Carla, Cherry, Aljo, Cheska** and **Cheleena** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Premiere Suite I at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 14, 2001 after the 8:00 AM Mass at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

RAINY DAY DRIVING

Watch out for things that could go wrong

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

WHAT could go wrong for drivers during the rainy season? Practically anything, if you listen to the "horror stories" of local motorists.

Travel photographer Robert Jimena, 28, and his team were on their way to Bicol when they were caught in a storm. They knew the storm would come but they needed to catch an appointment. The van broke down in Naga and the replacement of a fan belt took six hours. By the time the team left, it was already raining. The storm and the night blurred visibility. They could feel the van being blown by the wind. In one town, they encountered onrushing water from the cliffsides.

Jimena recounted that one particular flooded area did not seem too threatening at first. But when they started to cross it, the currents slowly pushed the van to an embankment. The wheels kept spinning and the driver desperately tried to control the van.

"We saw the water sweeping us away. We all got out of the van from the other side and just watched it being swept down the road."

Web designer Armando "Jun" Torres, 30, who had an appointment at the Mile Long Center in Makati City, parked his car on Amorsolo Street. It was near the Caltex station on A. Arnaiz Avenue at a time when the Skyway was not yet built. It rained the whole day, but Torres did not know that the area was known to flood. As he returned to his car a few hours later, much of Amorsolo was already flooded—and his car was wheel-deep in dirty canal water. Floodwaters already seeped into his car through the gearshift lever.

Mando Peren witnessed cars float along Pasay Road at the height of the rainy season last year. These cars were parked at a bank near the El Cielito hotel. When trucks braved the deep waters, the waves they created pushed cars from side to side like boats in a docking area. Some security guards even desperately held on to a Corolla to keep it from drifting away.

Using common sense

The Automobile Association of the Philippines (formerly Philippine Motoring Association) said that the rainy season is the time to check one's wet-driving common sense.

The AAP said that even a light drizzle could prove downright dangerous for driving.

Land Transportation Office traffic education chief Daisy Jacobo advised motorists to check lights—headlights, taillights and hazard lights. Lights, aside from showing you the way, are also a means of communicating to other motorists and to authorities if you are in distress or not.

Motorists might want to avoid the center islands that are eroded at times during rainy days, said Jacobo. Some portions of the North Expressway, she added, are examples of having eroded islands. She recalled an accident when a speeding driver plowed through the muddy island and was thrown off the opposite direction.

The moral of the story, she said, was defensive driving. Don't drive too fast so you'll have enough time to react.

During heavy flooding and storms, look for shelter, listen to the radio for traffic reports. If possible, just stay at home. Be more alert, increase the distance between you and the car in front of you (ideally twice the distance you allot in dry daylight driving). Check brakes after passing through deep floods to make sure the brakes work. The brake pads of new cars have water dispersion qualities that improve braking in the wet, but it is still a good habit to check on your brakes.

It is not wise to make short cuts during heavy rains, especially when you are unfamiliar with the routes. Jacobo discouraged motorists from taking short cuts on alley-like streets or secondary roads. When in doubt, stick to the main arteries

"There's a big possibility that you may not reach home on time because most drivers are also looking for short cuts. Also, it would be hard to get out of narrow alleys. Sometimes, people make alley-like streets their parking lots and these streets become one-lane. Delays may more likely occur."

On secondary roads, there will be no traffic enforcer to bail you out, said Jacobo. "But if you stick to the main artery, even if there's traffic congestion, you are sure it's going to move." Assistance during emergency cases could be more accessible on highways and main thoroughfares. "You are also most likely safer from criminal elements than when you are on alleys."

Good driving habits

Here are some good rainy-day driving habits to develop:

- Slow down, always! Since braking distances need to be lengthened and steering circles are compromised—drive at minimum required speeds.
- Increase the distance between you and the car in front.
- Avoid the inner and outer lanes (near sidewalks or islands) where floodwater may be deeper.
- Don't make jerky motions with the steering wheel or the brakes, on wet or dry situations.
- Open running lights even in light rain.
- Don't rush through a flood.
- If can't see the car in front, stop. Never drive beyond the limits of visibility. At night, wet roads become especially treacherous. The glare of lights from oncoming cars is distorted by the water on your windshield, making it all the more difficult to see.
- Be more alert—always pay attention to the taillights of the car in front of you.
- Beware of flowing water. Never drive through moving water if you can't see the ground through it; your car could be swept off the road. When driving through a puddle, go slow. If you expect floods in an area, drive through another route. Also be wary of where you park—deep water seeping into the car's engine can cause serious damage to its electrical system.
- Stay off the road during heavy storms. Heavy rain, lightning (especially at night), strong winds and floods can disorient and create deadly driving conditions.
- Keep that car running well. Whether raining or not, it is a good idea to keep your car in good shape. How are your tires? How are your wipers? Is the windshield washer always filled?

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Aquaplaning and its dangers

BY RAYMOND TRIBDINO

I'VE watched one too many Formula One races, says my wife, angered at the way the speedometer needle was hitting 60 kph.

"But that' s 60, *lang*," I complain, trying to hush her opposition.

"That's too fast, *ang lakas naman ng ulan*," she retorts, while pointing to the buckets full of water whisked away by the rapidly sweeping wipers.

I refused to back down. We were doing 80 kph while negotiating that one long straight stretch of concrete linking Bay to Calauan, Laguna.

Carnival ride

Suddenly, a gust of wind crosses through the flooded rice field. Its swoosh is bending the stalks as it approaches our tiny sedan. In an instant we were facing north side, when we were originally going south. It was an unexpected carnival ride, which without Divine Intervention, would have been disastrous. Even fatal.

We were lucky. There was no other vehicle behind us. We somehow spun into a concrete embankment narrowly missing the irrigation ditch five feet down.

Nothing bruised except my ego. Nothing damaged except my pride.

It was déjà vu along the Skyway at the height of Typhoon Feria. The same circumstances led to a white sedan spinning thrice near the off ramp to Pasay Road. I was a good 20-car distance behind and saw the car pirouette on all four wheels until finally stopping; facing the opposite direction, the left rear fender slightly dented.

I turn on my hazard lamps and check on the lady driver and a young boy. They were shaken but all right.

Gusts of wind and a sheet of water do not make for safe driving.

You not only lack traction, you also lack balance. Even a weak 40 to 60 kph gust can upset the stance of your car, throwing it out of lane. A layer of water, as little as half an inch thick is hazardous if your tire's treads are not of the correct depth, or if you are driving too fast.

Driving concepts

Two basic driving concepts that need to be discussed to understand what really happened in these situations are hydroplaning (called aquaplaning, elsewhere) and turbulence.

Hydroplaning is caused by an accumulation of water between the tire and the road. Instead of water being dispersed, keeping the rubber in contact with the road, the tire slides on a thin layer of water. This is dangerous because it momentarily "lifts" your car from the road. Much like slipping on a banana peel. There is no traction. There is no control.

The shapes of most cars today produce excellent aerodynamics. But aerodynamics is of little help when the force of the wind comes from the side. This is because the vehicle is unable to "slice" through the wind. The large surface area on the side of the car acts like the wings of a kite.

The turbulence coming from the wind at the side of the vehicle creates a violent, irregular agitation of the air flowing in and around a vehicle. This also creates a similar "lift" that upsets balance.

Being buffeted by the wind from the side, amplified by reduced traction, will certainly push the vehicle out of line.

Its elevation, about 10 stories high at its tallest point, makes the Skyway particularly vulnerable to gusts and strong winds. Surely the Skyway's engineers have factored in wind velocity in its construction of the roadway and know at what parts are gusts particularly dangerous.

Observations

My experience? Four times around the Skyway at the height of Typhoon Feria and these are my observations:

Buffeting is particularly powerful at the area in line with the airport. Gusts are actually shaking some vans I see passing by. There is a natural catch basin at the approach of the tollbooths. Though I have not experienced flooding here, water pools deep enough in both toll exits tend to decrease effective braking distance even if approached at minimum speed.

As you climb back to the approach of Magallanes and Edsa, the winds again come from the side (my gauge was the direction the rain was splattering the car).

Particularly scary is the wide expanse between Edsa and the Don Bosco exit where the gusts seem to bounce off the old Tradewinds Hotel building.

When exiting the Skyway via the Pasay Road off-ramp, expect a small river of water meeting you as you climb up and down. It is essential that you maintain speeds less than 40 kph as you negotiate the sharp turns.

I personally feel that hydroplaning, together with turbulence along the Skyway, is dangerous enough to consider putting up wind diffusers along the strategic stretches of the elevated highway. Increasing the number of flashing hazard lights, particularly at areas where certain hazards are expected, can help reduce accidents.

How do you tell if you are hydroplaning? Most likely you can't until you've spun out. But a good indicator is if the steering may suddenly feel loose or little too easy.

However, most power steering systems isolate drivers from the road and until you've mastered your car's reactions well enough, you may not know.

If your car feels a bit loose, especially in a high crosswind; or if your van starts to move from side to side, back down. Watch the road ahead for standing or running water.

To avoid the wet-weather hazards of hydroplaning, forget Schumacher and Silverstone 2000. Lift your foot off the pedal and drive slowly and sanely.

Metro Manila driving habits

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IT'S been said that if you can drive in Manila and survive in one piece, you can drive in any city in the world. Manila's reputation as a hotbed of undisciplined motorists invites the conclusion that to reach your destination on time, you have to disregard traffic regulations and forget about road courtesy. Not really. After decades of driving every day in Metro Manila, I have come to the conclusion that to reach your destination on time and in one piece, you only have to know the driving habits of the other motorists on the road and adjust accordingly.

For instance, there is the "Stop anywhere, any time" habit of jeepney, taxicab and bus drivers who will stop anywhere—even in the middle of the street or right before a "No Loading or Unloading" sign—to pick up and disgorge passengers. The worst offenders are buses and mega or FX taxis. Aware of this habit, the savvy motorist avoids following or driving behind any of these vehicles, especially empty taxicabs and jeepneys looking for a fare. Sometimes, however, it is unavoidable, since public utility vehicle drivers often stray from the lanes reserved for buses and jeepneys and invade the fast lane, except on the few streets where separating barriers or fences and alert traffic police prevent them from doing so.

Another driving habit that one should be aware of is the "left turn" habit of private as well as PUV and truck drivers at intersections. This is lack of lane discipline that is also seen on roads and highways that fork into two directions, such as the northbound South Luzon Expressway as it approaches the Magallanes interchange. In the latter case, motorists intending to proceed to the South Superhighway or Edsa/Pasay are supposed to stay on either one of the two leftmost lanes while those going to Edsa/Cubao via the Magallanes interchange are supposed to stay on the remaining four lanes on the right. In the same way, motorists who will turn left at a four-way intersection are supposed to stay on the left-turn lane/s and signal accordingly.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Notice the use of the words "supposed to." When it comes to turning left at an intersection or at a fork in the road, most Metro Manila motorists don't do what they're supposed to. Instead of keeping left, they keep to the middle or to the right, then suddenly swerve to the left when the traffic light turns green or, in the case of a fork in the road, at the very point of entry to the left tine of the fork. And they usually do this without bothering to switch on their left-turn signal. Knowing this, the savvy motorist who isn't turning left, long before nearing an intersection, keeps to the farthest lane on the right—the farther right, the better. This way, you avoid the thicket of vehicles in the middle and right lanes positioning to swerve to the left when the light turns green.

But if you are turning left, by all means keep to the farthest lane on the left—unless you welcome the prospect of being sideswiped by a crowd of swerving left-turn bullies. Being aware of the routes and hours of cargo trucks is a must if you want to get to your destination on time. The lumbering behemoths emanate from and go back to the Port Area before and after the morning and evening rush hours. If you know which roads are off-limits to cargo trucks, you may manage to avoid them at all hours. Driving beside a container van isn't recommended because many an unfastened or inadequately fastened container has been known to topple and crush the car that happened to be alongside. But "Stop anywhere, anytime" PUV drivers and left-turn artists aren't the only exasperating aspects of motoring in Metro Manila. In your daily struggle to get to your appointment on time, you also have to cope with the tricycles and pedicabs that not only profilerate on secondary roads and inside residential subdivisions, but also crowd some stretches of major thoroughfares such as Taft Avenue, Sucat and Katipunan Road. Tricycle and pedicab drivers routinely defy traffic regulations and ignore traffic signs, such as one-way street signs. Is it because many of them are owned by policemen? But that's another story for perhaps another time.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If you're born again, do you have two bellybuttons?

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph.

Safe driving tips

MINUS the traffic, driving can be a very relaxing activity because it affords one the chance to visit a lot of destinations in the comfort of his own vehicle. However, driving also entails a lot of responsibilities Careless and reckless driving habits often cause damage, injuries and even death to other people.

It is extremely important for drivers to always practice safe driving behavior. Having a solid insurance policy from a stable and reliable insurance company also helps in case of untoward incidents. With this in mind, FGU Insurance Corp., the nonlife insurance and surety arm of the Ayala Group of Companies and the Bank of the Philippine Islands, shares some car care and motoring tips for safe and worry-free driving.

- **Check the tire rod.** Low tire pressure causes tire wear and tear pressure. Always equip your vehicle with spare tires because tires with worn-out treads will rob your car of its ability to grip the road, make it slide more easily on wet pavements and may explode without warning.
- **Always have clean rearview mirrors to see at least 200 ft behind.** Your windows must also be clean and free of obstructions. Check to see if all of your lights as well as your wipers are working properly. Inspect mufflers to prevent excessive noise and smoke.
- **During engine tune-ups, make sure that spark plugs, distributor points, condensers and air cleaners are replaced.** The carburetor must be periodically cleaned while batteries should always be kept in good condition by making sure it has a high level of distilled water. Also, inspect your car's fuses and circuit breakers.
- **Check the radiator fluid before starting the engine.** Also, check the temperature gauge and hose connections, brake fluid and master cylinder. Brakes and parking brakes must also be firm enough to stop your vehicle when required.
- **Inspect your car horn to see if it can be heard from a distance.** Likewise, a defective steering wheel, clutch, pedals and shift gears need very serious attention. Turn the ignition to see if the lights and gauges register because the car's gauge warns the driver if something is wrong with the vehicle.
- **Make sure you and your car are covered.** No matter how defensive a driver you may be, accidents can, and do happen. That's why it is very important to be prepared all the time.

FGU Insurance's affordable and comprehensive motor insurance policy is among the best in the industry. It is backed by one of the country's largest nonlife insurance companies to keep you focused on your driving and away from the hassles that may arise unexpectedly.

Keep in mind that as the driver, you must always be physically, emotionally and mentally fit to operate your car on the road. This is extremely vital to safe driving. Make sure your senses are working properly and that you are in full control of your emotions. Anger, anxiety, excitement and fatigue often lead to driving errors that may cause serious accidents to you and other motorists.

Remember that you owe it to yourself, as well as to your fellow drivers, to make the road a safe place to drive in. So follow these basic but effective tips and do your share to make driving a more pleasurable activity.

Ford Lynx 1.3 now available

FORD'S dealership network announces the availability of the Lynx 1.3 GSi with manual transmission at an introductory price of P555,000.

"In response to customer demands for a more practical vehicle, Ford brings back the 1.3-liter Lynx GSi," said Paolo David, product planning manager of Ford Group Philippines. "The 1.3 Lynx GSi provides excellent value by combining the practicality of a 1.3-liter engine with comfort and convenience features usually found in higher-end models. Features such as power door locks, power steering, power windows, power mirrors and even a Ford first-aid kit" he added.

The Lynx carries with it Ford's reputation of almost 100 years of providing innovative products. This includes Ford's New Edge design combined with class-leading interior space, excellent steering and handling and a priority for safety.

It is powered by the new 1.3-liter, 16-valve gasoline engine with electronic fuel injection system. This quick-performing, high efficiency engine delivers a maximum horsepower of 85 ps at 6,000 rpm.

The Lynx 1.3 GSi with manual transmission comes in six exciting colors. It is available at 11 authorized dealerships nationwide. These are Ford Alabang, Ford Balintawak, Ford Edsa, Ford Libis, Ford Makati, Ford Quezon Avenue, and in the provinces Ford Pampanga, Ford Cabanatuan, Ford Cebu, Ford Davao and Ford Bacolod.

Audi A6 leads the way in reliability

OWNERS of the Audi A6 can congratulate themselves on having chosen Germany's most reliable upper midsize luxury car. This is the conclusion reached in the 2000 breakdown statistics recently published by the German automobile club ADAC.

In a field containing some significant rivals, the Audi A6 recorded the least number of problems. At only 16.7 breakdowns per 1,000 cars, it proved much more reliable than any of its competitors, including those manufactured in Germany. The runner-up in the list could do no better than 20.7 breakdowns per 1,000 cars.

The Audi A6 has continuously been improved through innovative engineering to achieve uncompromised quality and safety. Safety of the Audi owner and its passengers has been the topmost consideration in the planning and execution of the Audi A6. ABS, EBD (electronic brake pressure distribution), EDL (electronic differential lock) and ASR (traction control) combine to give the A6 a standard driving safety so far unrivaled in its class.

The steel frames and braces of the A6 take safety and precaution a step further. These frames have been made sure to withstand as much pressure from impact or shock. The steel frames extend from the front portion starting from the engine hood and extend all the way back to the baggage compartment area, thereby covering the entire area for passengers and motorist.

For Audi, innovation and responsibility are two sides of the same coin. Progress is always centered on people, a fact that becomes most evident in terms of safety. The forerunner to the A6 was elected "safest car in Sweden" in 1996, and "safest imported car in the USA" in 1994. Based on this kind of success, it is no longer a wonder that many other ideas and features, such as side airbags, have been adapted to the Audi A6's safety concept.

Visually, the A6 soothes and pleases the eye. Like contemporary architecture, its functionality has been tamed to reflect what is truly essential. Headlights, engine hood and bumpers blend together to form a harmonious whole, with smooth transitions. The distinctively Audi roof line glides in an arc from the engine hood to the luggage compartment. Nothing interrupts the A6's precise, clear lines: the bumpers seem to blend with the body at the front and the rear end, as with the mirrors, door handles and side strips match the body color. No wonder, the A6 was awarded the world's best car design by the prestigious Japanese International Design Award.

The interior of the Audi A6 provides so much freedom that one cannot help but relax. Convenience and safety are of great importance. Leg room has been given ample consideration to make motoring a pleasurable experience for the driver and a comfortable and leisurely ride for the passengers. Front and side airbags are standard in the A6.

Individuality is also not sacrificed. Elegance is given a personality that does not end by what is merely seen and sensed. The personality of each Audi owner is reflected on the choice he has made. That such a choice will not sacrifice form for safety or would he sacrifice his and his family's safety for the esthetic. The search for the fusion of what is pleasing to the eye and what is essential to man's existence (or safety) has produced the Audi A6.

As a whole, looking at the Audi A6, one sees its sensuality, timelessness and endurance. Both function and form join together and create a breathtaking masterpiece of beauty and reliability. The A6 is being distributed locally by Auto Prominence Corp. located at 2326 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

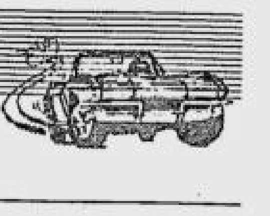
COURTESY CALL

BMW Philippines Corp. president Mark Gilbert and Prestige Cars Inc. (Libis) president Antonio L. Aquino recently paid a courtesy call on Executive Secretary Alberto P. Romulo at the Malacañang Palace. The presence of BMW Philippines has given a much-needed boost to the local automotive industry. Gilbert pledged his support to the government's car development program and expressed his confidence in the Philippine economy.

Why not 3 years for car registration?

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza



I AM about to renew the registration of my car. As always, I go to Pasig City. Ed Deveza, that amiable LTO (Land Transportation Office) chief there, is a joy to deal with. No hanky-panky.

Aside from registration expenses, an added expense, of course, would be insurance coverage; as usual, I go for the comprehensive type. Protects me from incurring a fortune when accidents occur, including a hit-and-run case against my car, not to mention protection from car thieves.

Thus, this question again: Why can't we renew the registration of our cars once every three years? If we can do it to the driver's license, why not also to the renewal of registration of our cars? Surely, it would lessen the hassles not only to our motorists but also to our LTO personnel. Hassles include precious time being spent in going to the LTO offices, what with today's monstrous traffic jams in the metropolis.

Can you give this some thought, General Abenina?

* * *

Honda's Arnel Doria is such an angel. He e-mailed me the following "non-Honda" news item, proving once more that he's a true professional.

"Matsushita to sponsor Toyota F1 race team," said the e-mail.

Here's the complete story, filed by Reuters:

Toyota Motor Corp. and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. agreed on July 2 to a five-year contract that will make Matsushita the sponsor of Toyota's new Formula One (F1) team from 2002.

The alliance is expected to help ease the huge cost of developing racing car engines and platforms for Toyota, which enters F1 for the first time next year, an industry source said.

Matsushita hopes the deal will bolster its corporate image.

Both Toyota, the world's third-largest carmaker, and Japanese electronics appliance giant Matsushita declined to reveal the value of the contract between Toyota, Matsushita and Toyota's Cologne-based motor racing unit Toyota Motorsport GmbH.

Under the agreement, the Toyota F1 team will be named "Panasonic Toyota Racing" after the name of a Matsushita brand, and Toyota racing cars competing on F1 circuits around the world will bear the Panasonic logo on the sides and on the rear wing.

Matsushita president Kunio Nakamura voiced hope that the contract would help raise the profile of its brand name.

"I am hoping the brand name of Panasonic will be better known worldwide, particularly in Europe," he told a news conference.

Matsushita and Toyota, one of the electronics giant's key clients, are working on various projects including a joint venture for batteries for use in electric vehicles and hybrid cars.

The contract mainly covers technological support by Matsushita with an emphasis on electronics, but Toyota president Fujio Cho said his company would try to expand the two firms' cooperative ties.

"We hope to be able to deepen our relationship with Matsushita in various fields," Cho told the news conference.

Matsushita has supplied electronic devices to Toyota for more than 30 years, including car audio equipment and navigation systems.

* * *

Who said the automotive industry is holding back insofar as vehicle production is concerned?

Look, Mitsubishi has a new Adventure, Isuzu the Crosswind, Nissan a new Patrol and Toyota a new Corolla Altis.

C'mon, fellas. Filipinos always love cars that much that they'd skip a US vacation anytime in exchange for a brand-new car.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **If you drive, or are chauffeur-driven, five days a week in going to the office, walk or jog on Saturdays and Sundays. You need that exercise, buddy.**

Superchip increases overall driveability

SUPERCHIP is a performance-enhancing computer chip manufactured by Superchips Inc. (USA and UK). Designed as a small electronic module, it mainly consists of a microchip, which stores a new high-performance program. This fits into your stock Electronic Control Unit (ECU) and increases horsepower and torque and overall driveability.

- Superchips will not just give you a better response at full throttle, but throughout the power band and it will make your vehicle a pleasure to drive.
- Superchips Inc. has altered the fuel curves to run on high-octane fuel. The ignition curve is altered not just at the top end but throughout the power band from idle to full throttle. Shift points were also adjusted.
- Superchips Inc. has the capability to move the rev and speed limiters on many vehicles and can make custom chips to utilize almost any after-market product you may already have.
- Unlike their competitors, Superchips Inc. offers part throttle and wide-open throttle position tuning, not just wide-open throttle.
- All of their products are thoroughly dyno tested as well as tested on the street to get the maximum performance possible.
- All Superchips are tailor made for your specific computer code. They do not offer a "generic" chip made for all similar vehicles.

Superchips is exclusively distributed by Mancor Industries Inc., with Tel. Nos. 722-7525, 723-8506, 08 or 09 local 204.

Pitshop Service Center opens

ANOTHER Pitstop Service Center recently opened in Bicutan, Parañaque, Metro Manila.

A major auto consumables sales and service shop, Pitstop carries reliable brands like Michelin tires, Kumho tires, Circuit MF batteries, Boss batteries, Fuchs lubricants, Enkei aluminum wheels and Ultimat car mats.

Pitstop shops are located nationwide.

Tiara Commercial and Indutrial Corp., the organization behind Pitstop, expects more service shops, to open this year.

HONDA CITY VTEC

Better by the kilogram

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO
AND TESSA R. SALAZAR

HONDA City VTEC

THIS is clearly not a simple case of slapping in Honda's metal-twisting VTEC technology into the compact Honda City. Though the massive infusion of performance is much appreciated, the results are far better than expected.

What with exceptional power-to-weight ratio and increased handling capabilities, the 980-kilogram City VTEC actually reacts faster and more capably than its worshipped (but out-of-production) brother, the Civic SiR.

So is it any wonder, our fellow motoring journalists invited to the City Rallye Sprint are now test racing four City VTECs in many happy hours of spills, chills and thrills (and a rollover or three)?

Thrilling performance

Raymond: Kilogram for kilogram the City VTEC makes most of its 115 ps maximum power. With a redline topping off at nearly 7,000 rpm, and a torque band moving from 0 to 14.2 kg-m at midswing of the rev counter, this engine is able to streak from a standing stop to 100 kph in just above 11 ticks. It'll overtake safely from 60 to 100 in less than 9 seconds. Pretty potent stuff. The ABS-less 4-disc wheel disc brakes slow it down from the 100 mark in about 131 feet.

Tessa: It's like taming a powerful stallion. You'll feel the accumulated energy wanting to get out. And you just can't help but let it have its way. This wild horse gets impatient when you move it really slow, at 20 kph and thereabouts. In slow moving traffic, it nags you to do something. I tamed it a bit after a few hours of getting used to the shifters. I don't know. Either the City VTEC made we wild, or I tamed it is really a toss-up. The power tempted me many times to cut to the chase and challenge outright sports cars sprinting on the highway. It's a perfect ambulance, er, car in emergency cases. I strongly suggest our PNP officers to buy these.

Precise handling

Raymond: Okay, we might be carrying it a bit too far here. This City will not outrun the SiR in a race from the traffic light to second gear. It will also not outpace the Civic at top gear. But given parity circumstances, the usual traffic in the metropolis, it's a fine and fiery drive. Like an extra patty on your burger and bottomless soft drink. The strut bar suspension is definitely not Honda F1 stuff, but it works very well with the City. Stabilizer bars all throughout make handling a breeze, but with all that power throbbing under the hood, it may be a little tricky. There is some torque steer so make sure you have this firecracker pointed to the right direction before stabbing the throttle.

Tessa: At first, I found the steering wheel soft and too light for me. Some might find this tricky. But I liked the way it responds quickly. Again, in emergency cases, I wouldn't hesitate to make a 90- or 180-degree hand-brake turn with this car.

Sleek and slick exterior

Raymond: Redone two years ago, the City has gone from mid-priced family sedan to really affordable pocket rocket with the introduction of the VTEC version. The exterior revamp brings the car closer to the whole Honda lineup, with its teardrop-shaped headlamps and large wind-swallowing grille. It's a nice package, and is beginning to develop a personality all its own.

Tessa: Overall the exterior looks cool, and it looks fast even when standing still, it being small and compact. I believe it would fit the image of ladies on the go to a T.

Not much inside

Raymond: There is not much inside to keep up with the slick exterior. The fabric seats are pretty basic. There are no frills and fancies, except for the power windows and door locks. Thank heavens, there is no false wood paneling. While most of the plastics and trims are typically Honda, up to snuff and well-padded in places. The button-and-switch maniac will not be happy. Side mirrors are remote but manual and the locks do not operate in sync.

Tessa: I found the seats low and the adjustability not that flexible. The audio system's average, the aircon's good enough, control panel's simple, ergonomic switches are easy to find. For motorists who bring loads of stuff with them, you have ample trunk space here.

Our verdict

Purists will agree that to forgo of such luxuries as power this-and-that for more tire-shearing power is the way to go. Especially on a range of cars up until two years ago was never known for highway-gobbling performance.

Our rating: 8 out of a total of 10 points. Low points for cabin friendliness. High scores for looks and performance. And with this car, that should be all that matters.

Toyota opens 23rd dealer outlet

TOYOTA Commonwealth Inc. opens its doors to the public marking Toyota's 23rd dealer outlet in the country. Northern Quezon City residents can now avail of the TCM's world-class facilities and its array of advanced service equipment.

The façade of Toyota Commonwealth composed of high glass panels represents a design that highlights and complements the vehicle showroom resulting in an impressive and elegant look. People intending to visit the TCM will be welcomed by friendly marketing professionals ready to assist them and accommodate any inquiries regarding Toyota vehicles. Once inside, customers can look at the various Toyota vehicles on display in the TCM's classy and spacious showroom. The TCM also has an efficient parts counter where customers can purchase high-quality Toyota genuine parts and accessories. There is also a cozy customer lounge where customers having their cars serviced can wait and relax.

Toyota Commonwealth also boasts of world-class service facilities and state-of-the-art service equipment for the different servicing needs of its customers. It is the first dealer in Toyota's dealer network to have a laser wheel aligner and a four post vehicle lifter that can lift heavy vehicles like the Land Cruiser and Coaster. Toyota's world-class mechanics and technicians together will make sure that every car that goes out of the service station is properly serviced and the quality of work is assured.

Apart from its general job services, Toyota Commonwealth has also incorporated Toyota's Quick Service system and has seven Quick Service bays available to cater to the needs of its clientele.

Under Toyota's Quick Service System, cars that are brought to the dealers for servicing are guaranteed to be finished by a maximum of two hours from the moment that a technician starts works on the car. The services included under the Quick Service System are the periodic maintenance jobs like change oil, tune-up, replacement of brake pads, adjustment of brakes, checking of coolant and replacement of various belts like fan belt and air-con belt.

People intending to visit Toyota Commonwealth will not have any trouble finding the place as it is very accessible. Parking won't be a problem either as a vast parking area is readily available. Toyota Commonwealth is located on Commonwealth Avenue in Fairview, Quezon City.

WINDSHIELD DAMAGE

Repair vs replacement

WHEN Henry Ford first introduced the automobile to America, it was not equipped with windshields. Instead, drivers wore goggles to protect themselves from adverse weather conditions, insects and road debris such as rocks. Today, you would be hard pressed to find a car without this essential piece of equipment, but windshields of the 21st century are creations Henry Ford could have never imagined.

Equipped with heating elements to melt ice or even sensors that activate windshield wipers, the windshields of today are not just about keeping the bugs out of your eyes. But safety (laminated) and maintenance of this valued part is oftentimes overlooked, especially when rocks or debris "ding" the glass surface. Many motorists simply ignore the damage or put off repair until it's too late. "Once a ding or star expands, windshield replacement is often the only option," explains Andy Tabios, president of Manila Midwest Windshield Repair Corp.

Tabios says "up to 95 percent of all damaged windshields could have been repaired if the repair was performed within a week when the damage occurred. When the motorists choose to ignore the damage, radical temperature changes on the inside and outside of the windshield can cause dings to spread, and eventually lead to the need for an entirely new windshield."

"The most immediate and appealing benefit to consumers is the cost. A repair averages around P2,000 while the average cost to replace a laminated windshield, which is the safest and international standard, is P12,000, a substantial difference. Also the repair allows your vehicle to maintain the factory seal of the original windshield, a very important safety consideration, Keeping the original seal intact prevents air and water leaks, as well as ensuring proper deploymkent of airbags in accidents and roll-overs, Tabios said.

Manila Midwest has the most advanced technology in windshield repair. Its mother company in the United States, Ultra-Bond is the holder of long crack repair patent internationally. The average time is 45 minutes.

For more information on windshield problems, call up Manila Midwest at 926-6829 or 851-0062.

Car, cash and tickets at stake in Petron's Pump-A-Prize promo

PETRON Corp. launches Pump-A-Prize, an instant-win and raffle promo that gives motorists a chance to take home a brand-new car, win a trip abroad and cash prizes.

There are two ways to win. Every P300 single or accumulated purchase of Blaze, XCS Plus, XCS Unleaded, Regular Gasoline, Diesel Max or Kerosene at any participating Metro Manila station, entitles you to a game card for a chance to win instant prizes and qualify for the raffle draw.

Simply scratch off special portions of the game card and if the card reveals three of the same symbol in one horizontal row, you automatically get the prize opposite the winning symbols. Prizes for the instant-win promo include cash rewards of P500, P5,000, P50,000 and P100,000. Or you may get 4 liters of Ultron or REV-X or P20 worth of fuel.

Winning and nonwinning game cards may be used as entries for the raffle draw. You must first complete five stamps in one game card to qualify for the draw. To get a new stamp, just present your game card every time you gas up P300, in single or accumulated purchase at the same Petron station where the card was issued. After your 5th stamp, simply write your name, address and Tel. No. and affix your signature in the raffle coupon portion, detach from the instant-win part, and drop in designated drop boxes. Prizes for the raffle draw include a brand-new Chevrolet Silverado 2001 with. 4.81 V8 engine and 2 round-trip tickets for two to Bangkok.

Promo period is until Sept. 30. Deadline for submission of entries is Sept. 30, while raffle draw date is on Oct. 14.

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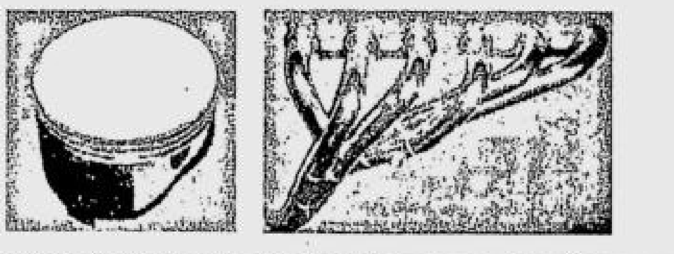

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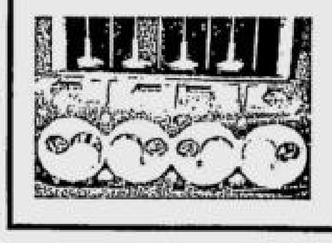

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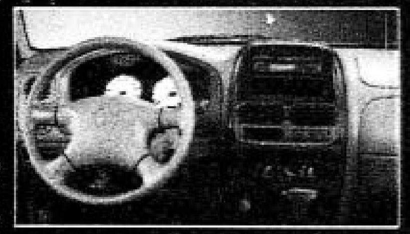

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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

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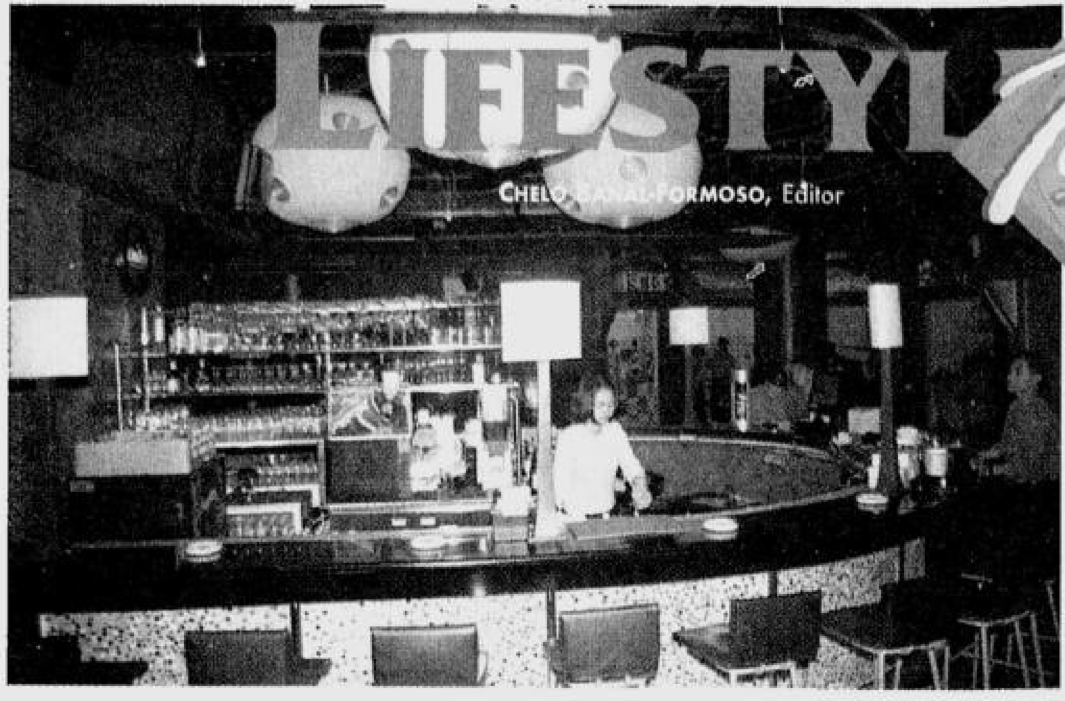

DINE and drink at Dish circular bar with a ledge you can dance on

Three men and a Dish

(Story on page C2)

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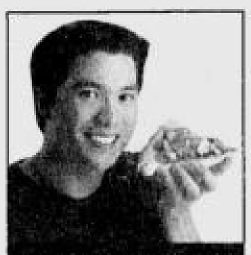

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Facial Care Centre's
Facial encounters

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Three men and a Dish

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Romy Homillada

WITHIN the confines of this newest dining and entertainment satellite, two things are constantly being dished out—superb food and great music. Dish, which is touted about as "the ultimate dining experience," has just opened its doors on the third floor of the Power Plant at the Rockwell complex in Makati.

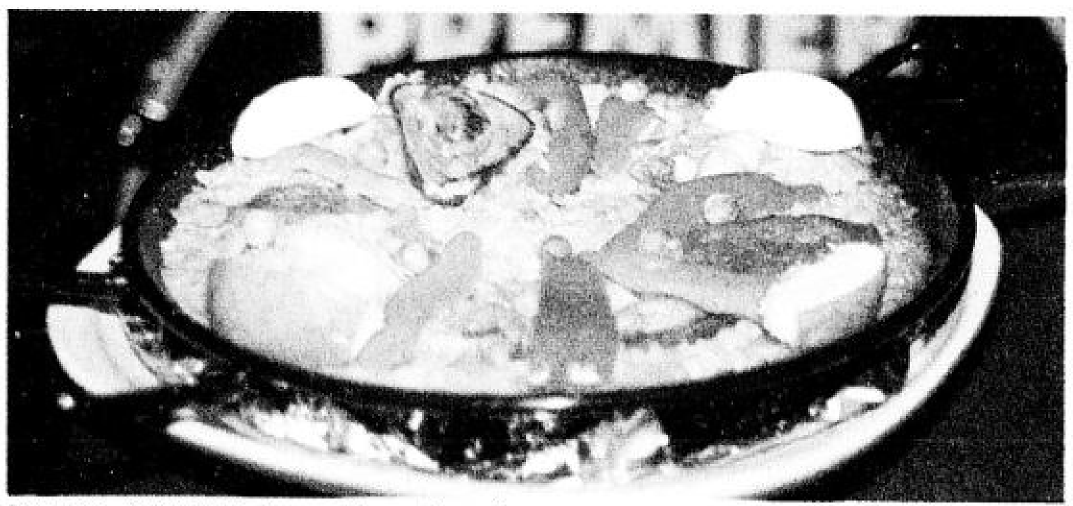
The synergies of three dynamic men have come together to form what will surely be one of Manila's hottest dining and entertainment spots—day or night. Rikki Dee of Kitchen and Krocodile Grill, EJ Litton of Strumms and Stars and marketing genius Philip Cu-Unjieng make a formidable team.

With Tessa Prieto Valdes whipping up the funky but elegant interiors, the product is quite a smashing dish.

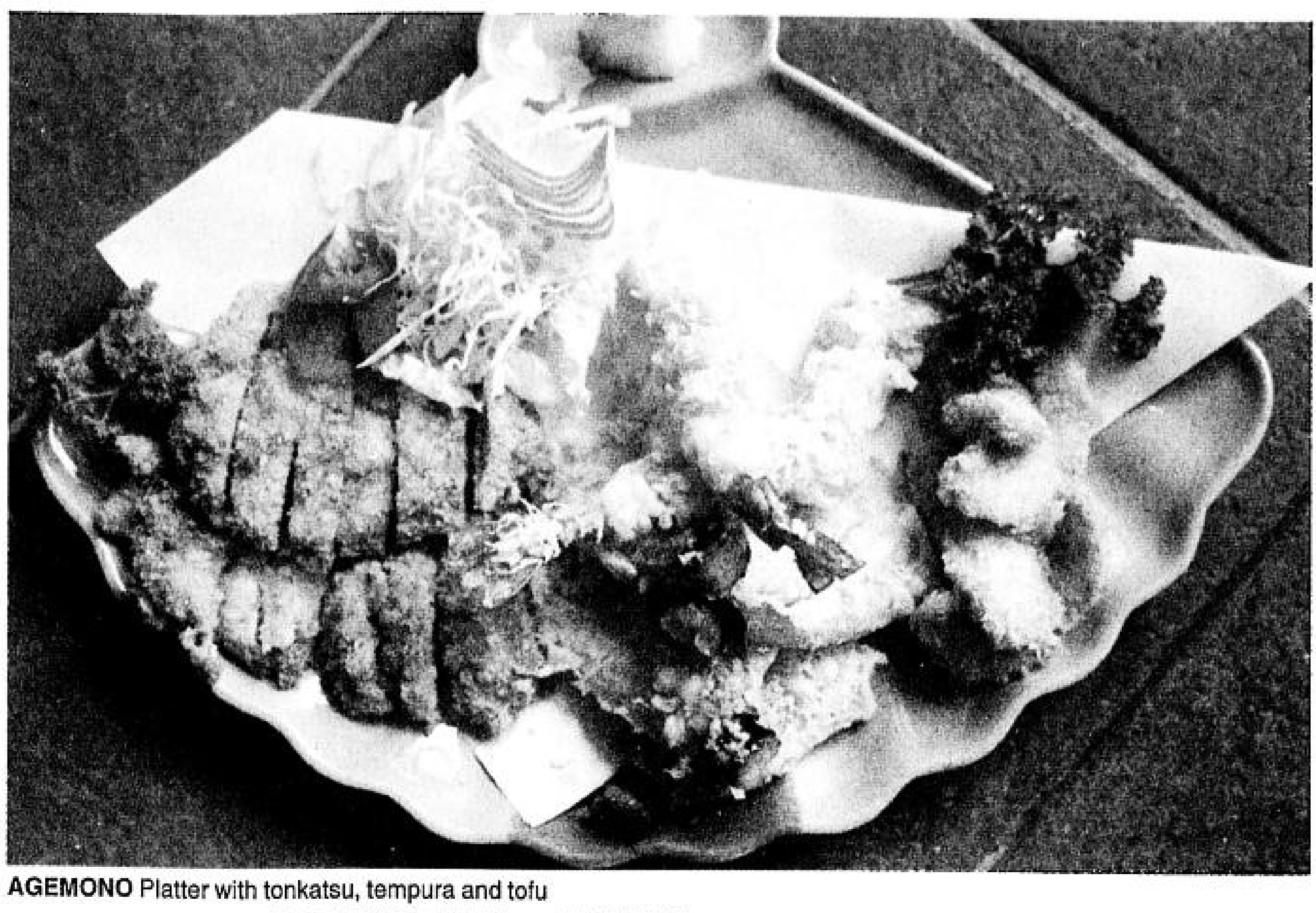
Unique concept

Located close to the Rockwell cinemas, Dish offers culinary fare from seven establishments that, in Cu-Unjieng's words, "have a reputation or at least know their business well."

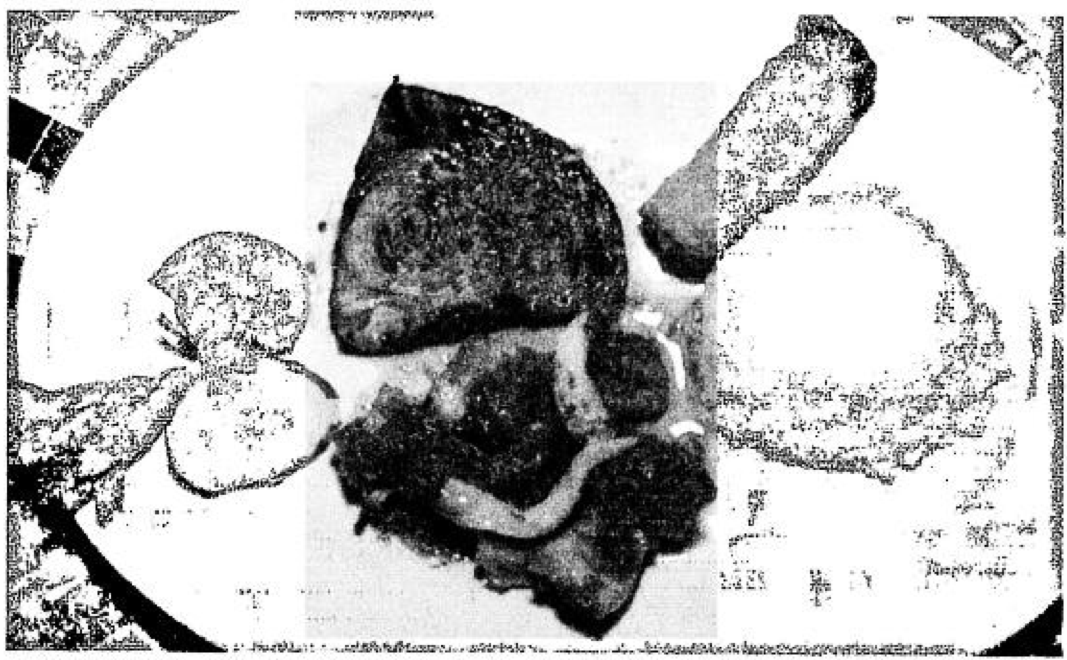
THE DONS OF DISH. EJ Litton, Rikki Dee and Philip Cu-unjieng



PAELLA PERFECT. Tapas Tapas topseller



AGEMONO Platter with tonkatsu, tempura and tofu



MASS APPEAL. "Para sa Barangay Meal"—Blue marlin, *kaldereta* and *lumpia* with rice

> They've taken the food court concept several stylized steps up; here you can sit down, order from any of seven kitchens in just one go and dine with live music

Take a look at these choices: Spanish food from Tapas Tapas, which is owned by the Alba family; healthy fare S (soups, salads, sandwiches, sweets & such) by Tes Litton of Stars; Japanese delights from Hoshi; hearty Filipino meals from Beng Dee's Barangay; Italian-Mediterranean cuisine from Vanna Calalang's Luna; juicy black angus steaks from Melo's Steak Factory and Vietnamese dishes and soups from Pho Hoa. At this writing, only the first four outlets are open but all will be operational by July 19.

Dish is different from other dining places because it has taken the food court concept several stylized steps up. People come in, take a table and order from any of the seven outlets in just one go. You don't have to go get the food yourself. No need to walk to the flatware station to get a fork. No queuing up. Diners are served by waiters. They are presented with a menu that lists all the dishes from the seven kitchens. Just as a warning, there is a whole array to choose from! The best part about it is that the prices are reasonable so you don't suspect that you're paying for the location and the ambiance.

Dee says that they have had to explain to the diners that the food cannot come all at the same time. "Just think, it's like ordering from seven kitchens." But not to worry. Average waiting time is 20 minutes even with a full house. The bill is paid for at the end of the meal and it comes in one receipt regardless of whether you ordered from one, two or four outlets. "That's the beauty there, you have a whole array to choose from," Cu-Unjieng explains, "Your dad can have Japanese, mom can have a salad while the kids can have barbecue. You eliminate the hassle of having to line up at several outlets," adds Dee. "Everything here is cooked as ordered and served à la carte."

Dish's menu varies slightly after 10 p.m. when mostly appetizers and pica-pica take star billing. Around this time, too, a band comes in for entertainment and the place takes on an all-night party ambiance.

First-timers at Dish need not be daunted by its expensive-looking façade and interiors. Dark wood, black leather and chrome seats certainly give the place a classy feel. Large cyclindrical Japanese lamps in canvas hang from the ceiling for subdued lighting. At the entrance is a unique feature—a glass fountain where Viva Natural Mineral water flows endlessly. It's not for human consumption though, as the water is changed every six months. However, if on a drunken evening one should accidentally stumble into it, well…

There is an elevated area within the complex where three function rooms are located. The rooms are partitioned by silk curtains and can seat anywhere from 15 to 50 people. Without the partitions, the hall can accommodate 100. The function rooms have an excellent view of the stage where various bands perform nightly. Side A, Pido with Take One, Spirit of '67 and Mulatto are some of the bands that play at Dish. "There's really something for everyone here. You can pick a night, depending on your age group," says Litton. Dish makes for an excellent party venue and proof of this is that their weekday and weekend nights are jampacked.

Consumer-friendly

At lunchtime on weekends though, Dish is more subdued, addressing the needs of corporate types and families who flock to the Power Plant. "We are filled with families on weekends," says Cu-Unjieng. There are plans to have family-oriented entertainment with puppeteers, mascots and magicians on Sundays.

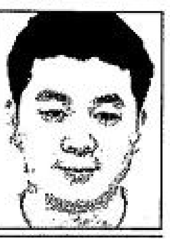
"Our prices are consumer-friendly," Dee explains. A substantial meal with a drink for lunch will set the diner back by P200-250. Barangay's "Para sa Barangay Meal" is popular; for under P200, one gets to pick two viands with *lumpia* and rice. Tapas Tapas has Paella Valenciana good for two persons for under P300. Japanese food lovers will delight in the Agemono platter from Hoshi, which is a mixture of deep-fried Japanese treats—tempura, tofu, ika, tonkatsu with three types of dips.

With food and music designed for a whole range of ages, this is certainly one dish that will satisfy every palate.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Welcome to the wonders of home cooking

THE MAD TEA PARTY



Clinton Palanca

AFTER YEARS of cooking in a restaurant kitchen, where my job is to stand in the middle of everything and bark orders at people, cooking at home has been a welcome change. I did find myself a maid; she doesn't drive or know karate (two qualities I've always found important for a maid), but she is meticulous, neat and is very good at bluffing on the phone when I'm screening calls from my editors, insurance salesmen and my credit card company (as opposed to "Mr. Palanca told me to tell you that he is not in."). She doesn't cook, which is fine by me. But I must recount what happened when I breezed into the kitchen to prepare some chicken with mushrooms.

In this restaurant, this is how it's done. I shout: "You! Get some chicken. You there, slice some mushrooms for me. And start sweating half a pan of onions!" Meanwhile, I entered the kitchen at home and found, to my great surprise, onions as I remembered them from a vague memory in the past: Round things with a dry, flaky peel, not translucent slivers in a metal pan in the chiller. The mushrooms still had soil caked on their stems. The chicken, at least, was already deceased and had been plucked, but was cowering in a corner of my freezer, solid as a rock. I remember reading that aircraft companies, in order to test the durability of their windshields, would launch frozen chickens at them, presumably because the latter are common hazards to be found at 35,000 ft. The one I was holding could have crashed an Airbus. Welcome to the wonderful world of home cooking.

It had been ages since I'd last chopped an onion, or stuck my fingers up a bird's ass (no kinky metaphorical jokes, please), or minced fresh herbs. I wouldn't want to do it every day, and I'm working as hard as I can to turn my maid into an efficient sous-chef (I suggested the Larousse Gastonomique as an alternative for her bedtime reading), but rediscovering the ingredients in their natural form was, actually, a pleasant reminder of why I had gotten into the business in the first place.

I inhaled the scent of basil on my fingertips and imagined this aroma in its various permutations: With mushrooms, for a wild, earthy taste; with pine-nuts for pesto, which can make you feel as though you are eating a heady perfume from Grasse; or holding its own against the pungency of fish sauce and the fire of chilies in Thai cooking. Exotic ingredients from expensive delicatessens or hand-carried home from abroad do, indeed, add interest to one's cooking, but only in the way that an extramarital affair adds interest to one's sex life. The real trick is keeping to what you already have and love, and finding new combinations. I'm really pleased with this metaphor, so I'm going to go further with it. Those startling fusion combinations, like adding rambutan to beef stew or suspending misono flakes in a white wine aspic, have the sort of forced originality akin to handcuffs, edible underwear or making your wife dress up in a Poveda uniform (the last one, by the way, I'm not making up). A well-stocked supermarket holds the elements for infinite possibilities, just as a painter's eight tubes of color allow him to paint the universe.

> Rediscovering the ingredients in their natural form was a pleasant reminder of why I had gotten into the business in the first place

KOMIKS
steph B.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Getting down and dirty and reacquainting yourself with the very elementals of one's metier can be very productive, or at least a welcome waker-upper.

The better you are, the less you do

In the publishing world, for example, the best contributors are usually offered a permanent staff position to prevent them from freelancing to other magazines. They then enter the magazine hierarchy, moving up from editorial assistant (writing articles, filing news items, making coffee) to section editor (drinking coffee, assigning articles, correcting grammar and spelling) to managing editor ("The deadline is in two days and where's the photograph for this article? Cut down the text to 300 words so that we can put in another bikini shot! Oh, and get that editorial assistant to make me some coffee.") to editor in chief (having three-hour lunches with the advertisers, freebies from all the cosmetic companies, wandering around the office and murmuring, "Good… good… good."; they don't bother with the coffee, they get Starbucks to deliver). The irony of all this is that the better you are, the less you find yourself actually writing, until the only prose of yours that appears in the magazine is the Note from the Editor.

I think anyone who is in the field should be functionally capable of doing both writing and editing; but in my experience, writers don't make good editors, and some of the best editors aren't really very good writers. The writer is usually an eccentric loner with irregular sleeping habits; an editor has to be a manager, capable of smoothing out interpersonal relations and making the whole production schedule run on time. They're two different tasks, just as running a restaurant and cooking are two different metiers. I hate it when I'm ruminating on pan-frying calves' brains and topping them with… a cheese? A reduced jus? Some acidity from a fruit, perhaps. The phone rings. Apparently I failed to sign something on BIR form 67088 (B) and the sketch I doodled of Adolf Hitler on the corner of a check has rendered it invalid.

These are two of the fields I have worked in. As for the third, academe, this truth is just as applicable, and I've seen its depressing reality. The best teachers end up saddled with the position of department chair, a job which involves sitting in an office, arranging class schedules and squabbling with other department chairs for the use of the audiovisual room. The most intelligent teachers are "deloaded," or relieved from classroom duty, in order to do research, or are assigned to teach those graduate-school courses in which three students laze around over coffee and throw around wild ideas for the masteral thesis. The only comparison to these sessions is one of those really late-night drinking sprees, when everyone is sprawled on the floor and someone pipes up, "Hey, dude, it just came to me. What if everyone alive were actually just, like, you know, dreaming it or something?" A Chinese philosopher is credited with having had this thought; Borges wrote numerous short stories on this theme; "The Matrix" used it as a jumping-off point. The best philosophy teacher in the university sips his coffee thoughtfully. "Try connecting that to Freud. Or Lacan." This sort of mental masturbation is, like its sexual counterpart, fairly harmless, mildly stimulating and generally a waste of time unless you're on a long train journey. The best teachers are those whose words impart knowledge, but whose persons embody a way of living (to be precious about it, an art of living) and of apprehending the world. The graduate students can have the crusty old farts with encyclopedic knowledge; but the best teachers should be given to the freshmen.

That's the ivory tower for you; I don't know if the same holds true in the steel-and-glass ones of Makati. Succeeding and moving up in the hierarchy sometimes means losing the opportunity of doing what one does best. Strange, isn't it? You get the most talented of the bunch, give them more money, more comfortable chairs, their own coffee-machine and then not make use of their abilities.

In the kitchen that day, I cut myself; a small cut, on the knuckles. I was depressed about it for half an hour, until the Cindy Margolis show came up and distracted me. Later, I decided that it (the cut, not the show) was a metaphor. (The ability to turn irritating things, like sudden rain showers, into metaphors about one's life, is one of the benefits of a liberal humanist education.) The cut, I told myself, was a battle-scar; it meant I was back in the trenches. The best generals should lead their troops into battle, and not watch calmly from a hilltop. It was time for some gore, some glory, some real *work*. I quoted, under my breath, those immortal lines of the battle-cry from "Henry V" ("Now set the teeth and stretch the nostril wide!"), put on some rousing fascist music and marched into the kitchen to do battle with the frozen chicken.

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Indian landscape

A modern resto in Malate and a 'carinderia' in Buendia are a welcome addition to the slim pickings

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

FOR MANY years Metro Manila had only one restaurant serving Indian food. This year the landscape has been enriched by at least two other places serving some of the diverse cuisines of "one of the largest and most populous countries in the world." Madhur Jaffrey, famous writer of cookbooks, TV personality and actress, has pointed out that India is larger than the whole of Europe (excepting Russia), and the food of its 17 states "differ from each other as much as the foods in the various countries of Europe." Madhur learned how to cook when, homesick, she wrote her mother seeking instructions about the cooking of home.

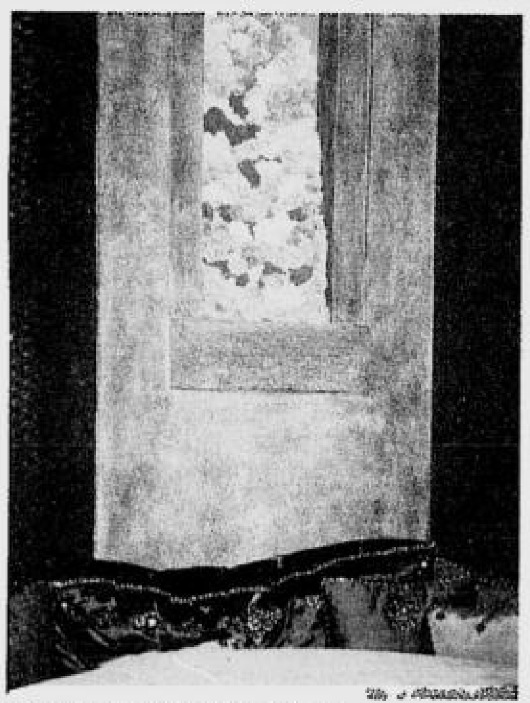
Raj, which opened in January 2001, calls itself a Modern Indian Restaurant. Owner Delfin Justiniano Montano found a great location (1820 Maria Orosa St., Malate; tel. 525-4858; fax 400-7502) among many other restaurants, and yet set off from them. One drives into its short driveway to find a small garden, and a pocket of serenity. John Silva, who took me there to celebrate his birthday, says this 88-seater restaurant is always filled at night (especially the night of the grand arrest, which many happy diners celebrated), and tables must be set in the garden as well.

MICHAEL Gutierrez, chef

Michael Gutierrez, the Manila-born Filipino chef, had learned Indian cooking in a Malaysian resort. His crew of waiters is active and attentive, and dressed in *kurtas* (bright pink, orange, etc.).

After my yoghurt drink, Lassi (salty or sweet by choice), we tried just about all the freshly baked-upon-order breads: *naan, poori, rava iddli, chapati* and *pappadurns.* The Chapati Platter is served with a spicy eggplant curry and tasty, tiny spiced potatoes.

Then came a constellation of dishes which we all tried: Jonathan Best's favorite Roghan Josh, lamb in yoghurt gravy, served with mint *chatni* /chutney. Meen Mali, fresh *lapu-lapu* fillet simmered in spiced coconut milk and banana leaf, served with mango chutney. Jingha Kari, prawn curry served with hot lime pickles, made spicy by condiments unfamiliar to our tongues. I truly enjoyed my soup choice: Chicken and Almond Soup with the almonds chopped, not puréed, thus adding a pleasant texture. John and Jonathan had the Mulligatawny Soup, said to have come into being as a way to handle last night's lamb curry, thus a staple of the British in India, and in British clubs all over.



WALL decor, Raj second floor

Wonderfully refreshing is the yoghurt-cucumber relish, which cools down the spice fires. Of course we had the long-grained Basmati rice, white and saffron-yellow (with sultanas and cashews). But I vowed to return for other favorites on the lunch and dinner menus: Lamb Biryani; Chicken Tandoori; Mattar Paneer with fried Indian cheese; Sai Baji, a spicy spinach purée; the eggplant curry called Brinjal Bartha; Mysore Dhal, with yellow lentils and tamarind, among them.

We shared two desserts, the Raj Ice, which is mango sorbet "with a spicy twist," and the Raj Royal Fruit Salad—diced mangoes, apples and bananas sitting on honey-mint cream in a martini glass. For another time there are Gajjar Halwah, a carrot cake, and Khulfi, Indian ice cream with pistachios, almonds and yes, spices.

The modest and the posh

The Radha Soami New Bombay Canteen (Stall No. 202, Buendia Shopping Plaza; tels. 894-4176; 893-7506) is a small, air-conditioned, clean and well-kept 40-seater dedicated to the home cooking of Mounaxi Khanchamdani. It has been called *ang carinderiang Bombay.* My roving researcher/reporter, spice-loving Mike Besa, rates the food as excellent.

The menu is divided into: Snacks, with 22 items, such as potato patties and Basmati Vegerice (house specialties), *samosas, pakora* (chili/onion/potato), *papadum, chapati,* butter *naan, lassi idlisambar,* and more.

The Vegetarian page lists 22 dishes. Mike especially endorses *palak paneer, mutter paneer, dal* soup, vegetable *cofta,* and eggplant *bharta.* The Non-Vegetarian page includes mutton, curry, chicken *kabbab,* chicken curry and chicken *tandoori* that Mike especially liked. It was soft and flavorful, although Ms Khanchandani said that she did not own a *tandoor* oven. There also are fish curry, mutton biryani, egg curry and chicken masala. Mutton curry and vegetarian dishes are Ms Khanchandani's specialties.

Mutton *kabbab is* the highest-priced dish in the whole menu (P120), since snacks and vegetarian dishes range from P60 to P120. "Very good prices," says Mike. His party of 10 had soft drinks and mineral water, and two servings of each of the 11 dishes they ordered; they were billed a total of P2,130 for evening.

Ms Khanchandani makes most of the spices in her home kitchen, then brings them daily to the restaurant, where she spends her time in the kitchen on personal supervision. One can ask to have the spice register toned down for those new to Indian food.

At the Manila Peninsula meanwhile, Indian chef Bairagi Sahani prepared at about the same time an Indian presentation, which Chef Ed Quimson and food editor-stylist-writer Nancy Reyes Lumen checked out and found good. Among the offerings were: Loo Paratha stuffed with potatoes; Roti Canai, grilled flat bread served with chicken curry sauce; Murgh Korma or chicken curry; Dal Gosht, lentils simmered with lamb shank; Prawn Biryani; Yellow Dal; and Aloo Methi Malai, a potato curry.

The auguries are good then, for the local Indian food landscape.

BASMATI rice and Meen Muli or *lapu-lapu* fillet

Order a crab dish, get a complimentary 'paella'

DINING OUT

LAS Paellas de Alba celebrates its fourth anniversary with the "Cangrejos-Paella" promo for lunch and dinner. The restaurant offers free *paella* of your choice with an order of crab dish. Choose from Cangrejos Al Alba (steamed crab, stir-fried in butter and olive oil topped with vegetables) and Thang Long Crab (king crab baked in garlic butter sauce) and enjoy your complimentary *paella.* Pick from Paella Valenciana, Negra and Marinera. Promo is ongoing until July 15 at Las Paellas de Alba, Alabang Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa, and on Tomas Morato, QC.

FERNANDO'S at The Rockwell Club offers daily Power Lunches from 12 nn-2:30 p.m. Enjoy a luncheon of carvings, à la carte dishes, taco and sushi every Monday to Friday. A drink-all-you-can promo starts at 6-7 p.m. Diners who feast on "Oyster Night" on Mondays, 6-10 p.m., can order a regular à la carte dish of eight pieces and get a dozen free. "Italian Night" happens every Friday with pasta, sauces, pizzas and antipasto. On Sundays, there's "Continental Brunch Buffet," 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and "Steak Night," 6 p.m.

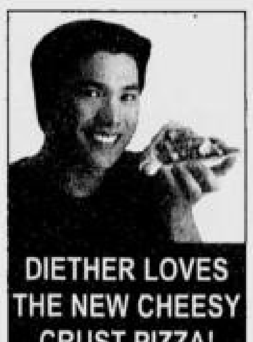
SOUTH Villa offers an all-you-can-eat dimsum on Mondays to Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Check out its Special Birthday Canton Noodle with Bak-kwa, Bak-kwa Cuapao, Halo-Halo Congee with Crispy Fish Crackers and Pork Floss toppings and Chicken Coin Sandwich. Lovers of Chinese dishes will have their fill with all-you-can-order dinner from 6-10 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. Choose from 30 dishes that come with appetizers, soups and desserts prepared by chefs from Hong Kong and China. Or sample South Villa's all-you-can-eat dimsum with its over 40 varieties, including congee and dumplings. Available from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. South Villa is located on Annapolis Street, Greenhills. Call 721-6662, 725-0302 and 721-1355.

HUTU'S Hut offers a wide variety of international dishes prepared with an ethnic flair. There's Zebra Stripes, grilled T-bone Steak with garlic chips, mashed potatoes and special rice pilaf; African Catfish and Green Mango Salad, crunchy catfish fillets on a bed of green mango matchsticks, tomatoes, salad greens and cilantro; Grilled Blue Marlin seasoned with the house spice mix; Hutu's Hut is located on Kalayaan Street, Makati.

BRAVO, an Italian restaurant with outlets in Malate and Alabang, offers free pizza and spaghetti for kids 54 inches and under. Chef Tiziano Cavellini concocts pizzas of cheese, sausage, meatballs and veggies and Bravo Kids' spaghetti which tykes can feast on every Saturday and Sunday lunch. Promo is ongoing until August.

AT CHINA Sea restaurant of The Westin Philippine Plaza relish Hong Kong master chef Sin Kwok Fai's Cantonese style of cooking. Sautéed Sliced Abalone and Celery in XO Sauce, Stuffed Abalone with Minced Shrimp in White Sauce, Braised Sliced Abalone with Assorted Meat Soup, Stewed Whole Abalone and Black Mushroom in Oyster Sauce are on the menu and available from July 15 to Aug. 15.

THE MARCO Polo-Davao will feature European, French and Pacific Rim Cuisine in Aqua Buffet starting on July 27. Enjoy baked Kobiya fish, slices of fresh tuna, tempura, Octopus and Jellyfish Salads, Seafood Brochettes on the Grill, baked tuna and *tanguigue,* Seafood Hotpots, Bouillabaise, Crispy Cajun Spiced Crablets and Calamares at Café Marco, 2/F The Marco Polo, Davao City.



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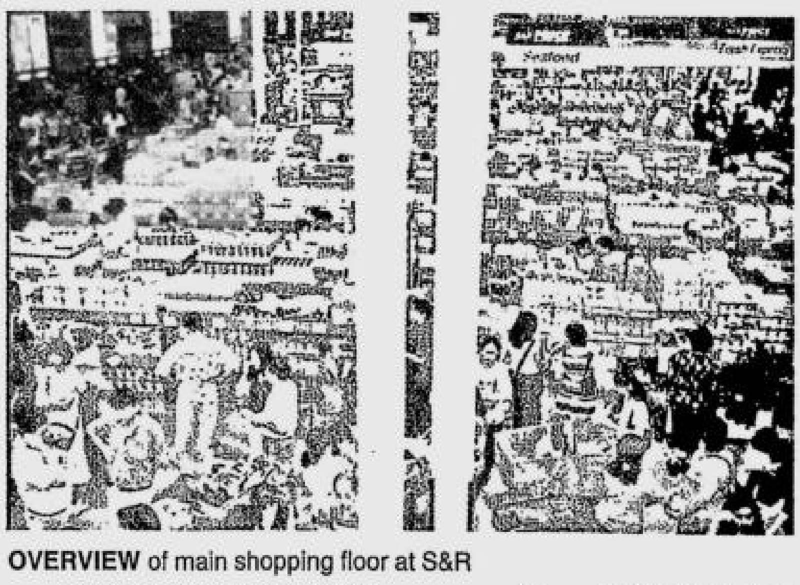
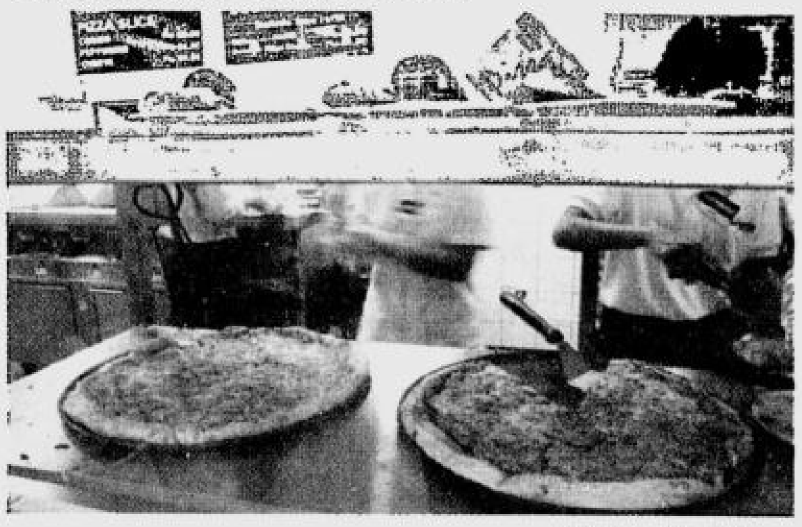
PDI

What's hot, what's not in warehouse shopping

By Nancy Reyes Lumen



OVERVIEW of main shopping floor at S&R



AMERICAN-SIZED pizza sold by the slice

OVER THE PAST weeks, there was a gathering at the latest holy ground for shoppers—the S&R Price Smart at The Fort. All of a sudden, life was astir again at the Global City. It was good that we had the smarts to acquire early membership cards when these were still P500 per. (Now it's P1,200 for the Diamond Membership.)

If you want to be among Fil-Am and American wannabes, this is it. Overheard were comments like, "Yeah, it's like the real thing (Costco Price Club) in the United States." And "... You have to know how to shop here and look for the real bargains, just like in the US." As well as, "Wow! *Parang totoo*! *Pati 'yung* pizza, American style!"

Prices are reasonable for some items and the imported goods are mostly priced as in the US. A friend, Judy Lao, made a visit and saw the exact weighing scale her Mom was trying to buy in Canada to send home. By a quick call to her Mom, she found out the price was the same. That saved her shipping costs.

Here are some good finds:

Best among the US goods: Jalapeño pepper fries, ice cream (skip the Deans Ice Cream—too sweet!), steaks, breaded chicken, fish fillets, giant mussels, as well as the deli meats and cheeses.

Also of interest were the big bags of frozen strawberries and cut fruits. The mixed seafood pack is a good buy (*surimi*, squid, octopus, shrimp, mussel) if you're lazy to source them from the markets and cut them up into ready-to-stir-fry pieces. (This one's from Thailand.)

Best apple pie: Price Smart's apple pie is apple tart and tangy like we want it. The crust is flaky and even has a note of cheesiness. But the price is steep at P358.

Best cinnamon rolls: We were able to buy a small foil tray the first time (these are the four pieces in a tray, not the ones in the carton box) and the dough is soft and tasty and the topping is not too sweet, just right. By Otis Spunkmeyer.

Good buys: Those cookies in a big plastic bin. We got the little white chocolate chips and the animal crackers that have holes in them so they can be strung into an edible necklace. Cool. But on the next visit, they were all gone.

Good buy for the price: Chocolate-covered marshmallow pie by Lotte. Not exactly a hot item, but good enough for the price. If you're just cruising the aisles, get a box.

Okay but not the best buy: Rotisserie chicken roasted on the spot. Best when newly cooked, so wait for that fresh batch. If you eat it straight away, the chicken will turn out good and sticky and tasty. If eaten cold, expect to make chicken salad out of the breast.

Best example of captive market: The pizza line at the S&R counter. The line is always long and a big, American-sized slice of pizza or calzone or the very Yankee hot dog sandwich plus bottomless drinks. We liked the cheese-flavored pizza best.

On the first few days after the opening, the lines were so long (still are) that every minute away from the pizza meant a sharpened appetite. Just having your turn was a blessing, it seemed. There are tables on the side and it's fine that it's always crowded; you can share tables and discuss or listen to what the others have bought.

However, such a monopoly of pizza is sometimes abused. When we decided to line up for pizza, the orders for the whole pizzas were being done first. Orders for slices had to wait longer, even if you were next in line. Finally, after one shopper got her just pizza slice, she jested to her kids, "I'll sell this slice at three times the price!"

Good fresh meat and butchery: All the pork cuts from the *pang-adobo* to the *pata* are okay. Avoid the ground pork—too white (ergo, too much fat). The beef and steak cuts are not aged so expect to chew a lot, but quality-wise, the fresh meats in general are all right. And the staff is friendly and helpful.

We were able to grab a pack of freshly made sausages that was all lean and tasty like *chorizo*. And some of the spice-rubbed meat preps like Chicken Parmesan and Herb-Crusted Pork Chops are okay. (A microwave tip: When you want crispy, fried *longganisa*, nuke them first in the microwave for about 1-2 minutes. After that, you fry. Saves you time.)

Nicest buy for teens: Those little frozen pizzas in a box. We saw Charisse Chuidian's daughter with one and she remarked that it was tasty. When we went back next day to get some, they were sold out.

Best buy but at a steep price: Baked New York Cheesecake. Like the real thing—heavy, cream-cheesy but not cloying and no gelatin! Heavy crust. Get ready to part with almost P400.

Best environmentally friendly act: Carton boxes to hold your purchased goods in lieu of plastic bags. And might we add that we prefer to shop at S&R because they allow us to bring our bags, which contain everything from the S&R cards to cash to lipstick and such. Over at Makro, one has to deposit the bags and be thankful to be let in with a wallet (which you have to tuck in your armpits while you're fitting some clothes from the rack.) Plus, here, you're allowed to bring a number of guests (read: family, driver, neighbor and churchmates).

Okay *lang*: Croissants and muffins (big and tall). Also, the sugar cookies and the big round cookies done by the bakery. If you were to buy the specialty oatmeal cookies from mall shops, it would be so expensive. The ones at S&R were good enough for the price.

Not good: The *pan de sal*. In fact, a few days after our first visit, we overheard one sales staff saying they will pull out some of the *pan de sal*. Maybe it didn't move fast? Why buy *pan de sal* in such a place anyway, when neighborhood bakeries can deliver them hot and fresh?

Bummer No. 1: The parking spaces. If you're unlucky enough to have to park in the open grounds, alas for you. It is not easy nor are you allowed to bring your pushcart to the cars. So flex your muscles and your patience, or get your car, drive to the entrance and then load your purchases. The security guards (helpless though they are at the arrangement) are willing to watch over the goods while you negotiate the hot sun, dust and traffic and your rising blood pressure.

And if and when you do abide by these rules, you'll have to drive, not across to the lane, in a minute. No! You'll have to take the detour and that means going for a long ride out in The Fort, near the C5 zone and back around. The security at S&R noted our complaints and agreed this was not a handicap-friendly set-up. However, they said the restrictions and traffic rerouting rules were enforced by The Fort. Why are we being forced to take a site visitation of The Fort just to get to the other lane?

Bummer No. 2: After getting in line for a parking space, and getting in line for a shopping cart, and getting in line at the cash registers and the line for the pizza or coffee at Allegro's, you have one last line: The "checkout after the checkout line." It's a good thing most of the S&R staff is friendly and efficient.

Funniest sights to watch: *Matronas* brought up to the entrance in chauffeur-driven cars. One driver had to pull over, open the van door, pull out a small *bangko* for his *amo* to step on, so she could get out of the van.

The same kind of *matronas* who are chauffeur-driven also have driver or *yaya*-driven pushcarts.

Family drivers, security staff of VIPs or family members calling out to their companions when their turn at the cashier counter comes close.

Almost everyone has a cell phone and is on it while shopping, loading heavy purchases into their carts, or keeping tab of kids, with a calculator in the other hand. (Did you know that chiropractors are busier nowadays than ever?)

Heard while cruising the aisles: A young boy asking his mom: "*Bakit walang nag-ta*-Tagalog *dito*?!"

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A hearty whiff of Davao comes to Metro Manila

DAVAO City is still the place to go to whenever you want to feast your soul on ancient lore. Kadayawan was made perhaps for those who want to know where we all came from. When you've been there, you'll never want to go anywhere else for a perfect and original Philippine holiday. For you can also buy what the mountain folk have especially crafted for you that are usually displayed at the city's public plaza for almost a week. You can also gorge on fruits like pomelo, mangoes, rambutan and mangosteen. And as a final gift to yourself, sit down like a high chieftain in the middle of pungent durian fruit to have a full feast of it. Perhaps you already know it is king of fruits or fruit of kings, if you please.

Some places in Mindanao can offer you just as much, but it is only in Davao that you may be accompanied with antique gongs and the haunting sound of the *kulintang* while you are opening a durian fruit. You hear gong music everywhere even when you are having broiled *panga* of blue marlin at the restaurant row of Davao's Bagobo village with faithful gallery owner Emil Lo and his beauteous wife Fely.

Or yet stop to listen while you're having an intimate tête-à-tête about the famous Baracatan farm inside the green plantation itself with one of its owners, the indefatigable Lucy Consunji.

This year, after the abundant fruit harvests, Sonia Garcia, bureau chief of Mindanao's Department of Tourism, together with the SunGee fruit farm producers, decided to bring a strong whiff of Kadayawan to Metro Manila's Rustan supermarkets so that people won't have to go that far to get the kind of festive atmosphere only Kadayawan in Davao City can offer.

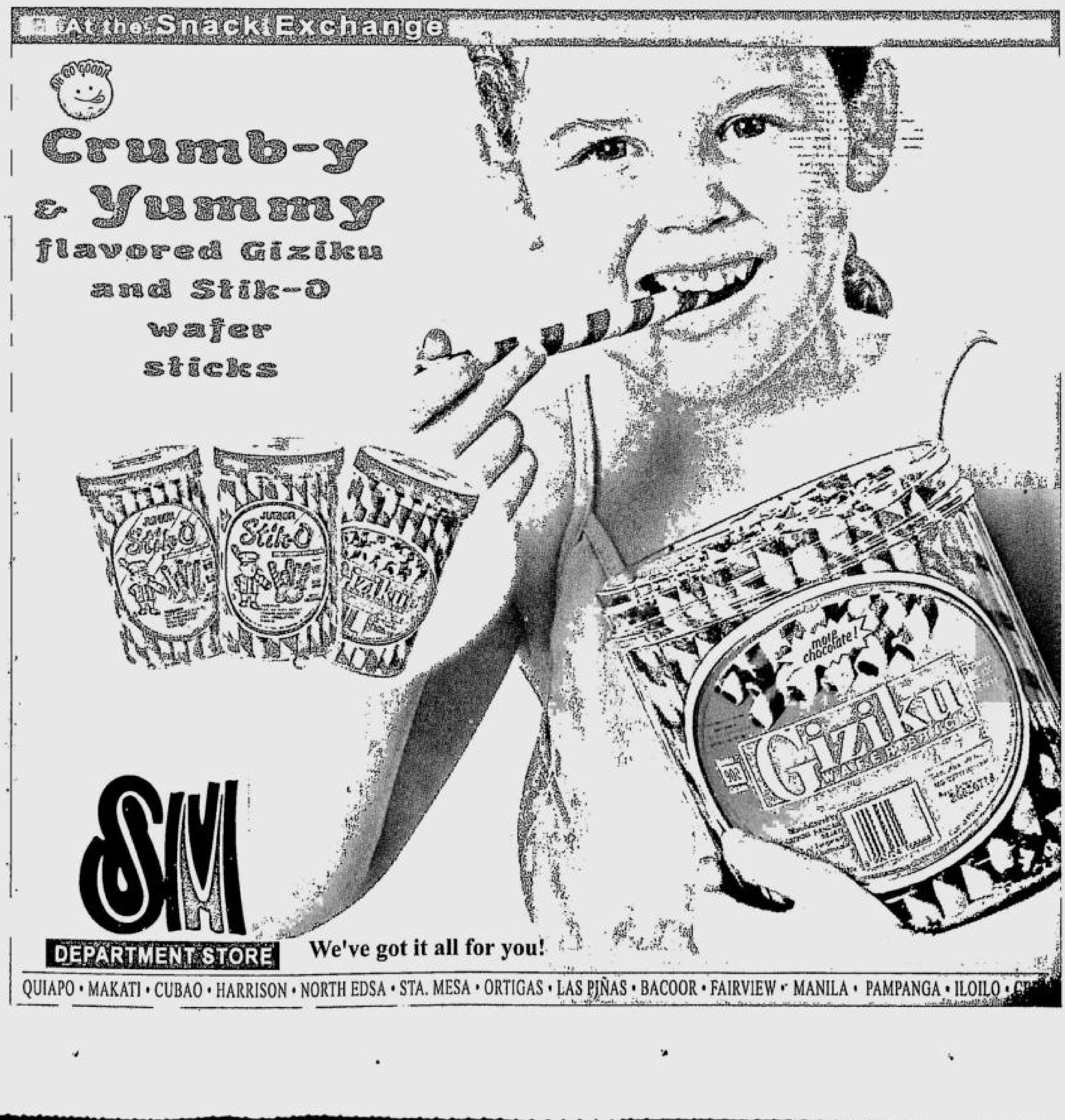
So come to the lobby of Rustan's Makati branch on July 14 or to the Rockwell branch later the same day, listen to the haunting *kulintang* music and try all the sweets that include *pastillas*, ice cream, shakes, *bibingka*, (and moon cake, would you believe?) and other confections that come only from durian as well as participate with us in an eating and opening contest on July 15 at the Durian Park on the Domestic Airport Road. The same activities will follow at the Alabang Fiesta Mall and similar Rustan's supermarkets until Aug. 15.

Raffles are going to be conducted for a round-trip ticket to and from Davao City for two in Air Philippines and more fruit eating and opening contests to boot. Farm experts will be on hand on Saturday and Sunday to teach shoppers how to open the prickly durian fruit, which will sell for only P75 to a kilo at every Rustan's supermarket all over Metro Manila and at the Durian Park.

Lorna Revilla Montilla

ALL the durian you can eat at the Durian Park

PHOTO BY LORNA REVILLA MONTILLA



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